



by Vladimir Clain-Stefanelli

History of the National Numismatic Collections

SMITHSONIAN

DLM 31458
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CONTRIBUTIONS FROM
THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY:
PAPER 31

HISTORY OF THE
NATIONAL NUMISMATIC COLLECTIONS

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*James Smithson Esq.
1817.*

Fig. 1.—MEDALLION OF JAMES SMITHSON by N. P. Tiolier, 1817. The back bears Smithson's signature (reproduced below medallion). About twice actual size.

HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL NUMISMATIC COLLECTIONS

By Vladimir Clain-Stefanelli

ORIGINS AND EARLY YEARS TO 1880

The national numismatic collections had their beginnings in the early 19th century in Washington, D.C. They found a central repository in the Smithsonian Institution when that organization was founded in 1846 in compliance with the will of James Smithson, an English scientist, who bequeathed his fortune to the United States for the “increase and diffusion of knowledge.” Smithson’s own interest in numismatics is indicated in a listing of his personal property which included “two pasteboard boxes containing medals, coins . . . etc.”¹ as certified by the English consul in Genoa where he died on June 27, 1829, at the age of 63 or 64. The disposition of these items is unknown, but among his effects which did reach the United States was a medallion (fig. 1) to which was attached a paper with the words “my likeness” written in Smithson’s hand.² (This medallion has previously been attributed to Antonio Canova, but it is not his work. It was modeled in 1817 by Nicolas Pierre

Tiolier, engraver general at the French Mint from 1816 to 1843.)

On behalf of the United States Government, Richard Rush was appointed to receive the Smithson bequest and he made the necessary arrangements for transforming the estate into hard money, which amounted to 104,960 gold sovereigns, 8 shillings, and 6 pence.³ Rush reported its safe arrival in New York on August 29, 1838,⁴ and deposited the gold at the Mint for recoinage into United States money; it totaled \$508,318.46.⁵

No official attempt was made to preserve examples of the James Smithson gold transfer as historical mementos. Certain historical and numismatic facts, however, contribute to the conclusion that at least two of the sovereigns (fig. 2) deposited by Richard Rush were probably saved from the melting pot and are now preserved in the national numismatic collections (see Appendix I).

¹ WILLIAM J. RHEES, “James Smithson and his Bequest,” in *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution . . . for the Year 1879*, Washington 1880, p. 156.

² The medallion is cast in brass and partly chased. Oval in shape, it measures 52.5 x 63 mm; its thickness is 5 mm at the border and 10 mm at its highest point. The back shows vertical striations from planing and the lightly traced inscription engraved on two lines reads, “James Smithson Esqr./1817”. It weighs 134.345 grams. This medallion served as a model for the great seal of the Smithsonian by Edward Stabler, ordered by the first Board of Regents, also for the portrait engraved by Charles Burt and published by the Smithsonian for the vignette which appeared on all of the Institution’s publications up to the 1880s. It was also used as the model for the Smithson Medal, designed by Paul Vincze and first presented to the Royal Society at the James Smithson Bicentennial celebration in 1965.

³ For data about the transfer, see WILLIAM JONES RHEES, *The Smithsonian Institution: Documents Relative to its Origin and History. 1835–1899*, vol. 1., Washington 1901, pp. 7ff.

⁴ Ibid., p. 100, Richard Rush to John Forsyth. This large quantity of gold was packed in 105 bags, each bag containing 1000 sovereigns with the exception of one bag which contained only 960 sovereigns plus the 8 shillings and 6 pence wrapped in paper. The bags were placed in 11 boxes—ten of them contained 10,000 sovereigns each, while the eleventh box was used for the remaining 5 bags—and shipped on board the *Mediator*.

⁵ Ibid., pp. 101–102. On September 4, 1838, Secretary of the Treasury Levi Woodbury requested that \$50,000 be coined in gold immediately: see National Archives, Records of the United States Mint at Philadelphia, General Correspondence and other orders concerning the Smithson legacy, on September 5, and November 5, 1838.

Because the roots of the Smithsonian Institution's numismatic collections reach back to the beginning of cultural activity and museum life in the District of Columbia, a summary of these origins is in order. As early as 1816 "The Columbian Institute for the Promotion of Arts and Sciences" was active in Washington and on May 20, 1818, it was granted a charter from Congress. During the two decades of its existence, its interests often seemed directed toward



Fig. 2.—BRITISH SOVEREIGN, 1838, from the original Smithsonian deposit.

natural history and especially mineralogy and botany, but its endeavors were actually quite general in scope. An interesting numismatic sidelight on the Institute is that among its founders was Thomas Law (1756–1834). He came from a prominent English family and, after a distinguished career in India, moved to the United States in 1793 where he soon became one of the most active citizens of Washington. He was keenly interested in economics and was an ardent proponent of a national paper currency. Whenever there was occasion—in publications, at public meetings, and particularly at meetings of the Columbian Institute—he expounded his ideas for a "uniform, permanently secure currency," describing the advantages of the system he championed. The president and directors of the Columbian Institute ordered the publication of one of his addresses, showing the interest they were taking in Law's proposals and extolling his preoccupations which were so akin to the modern concept of numismatics.

It can be assumed that the Columbian Institute's small numismatic collection was kept in the Institute's cabinet. (Additional information is presented in Appendix II.) Insofar as is known, the public was never invited to view the displays. When the charter for the Columbian Institute expired in 1838, associates "were invited to become members of the Na-

tional Institution, and to deposit in its cabinet their effects, books, and papers."⁶

The National Institution for the Promotion of Science, or the National Institute as it was later called, was organized on May 15, 1840, under the leadership of Joel Roberts Poinsett of South Carolina, Secretary of War under President Martin Van Buren. Its purpose was to establish a national museum with the idea that, later, it would be entrusted with the administration of Smithson's bequest.

The distinction of being first to offer public exhibits featuring numismatic objects, however, goes to John Varden, an enterprising private citizen of Washington, D.C. He opened a small museum adjoining his 5th Street home, in 1836, with displays consisting of some 500 "curiosities," and he kept a record of the museum's numismatic collections. In December 1839 Varden made arrangements for a larger museum in the Masonic Hall at 4½ and D Streets. In 1840 the "Washington Museum" or "Washington City Museum" was visited by representatives of the National Institute who came to examine the exhibitions and negotiate concerning their acquisition. An agreement was apparently reached since Varden sold his collections to the Institute for \$1,500 in June 1840. The curator of the National Institute, Dr. Henry King, had the entire inventory of Varden's museum installed in the National Gallery Hall at the United States Patent Office. Varden accompanied the collections as an "assistant, who is also a good mechanic and arranger . . . at \$1.50 per day."⁷ A brief account of the records from Varden's museum and excerpts of data of numismatic interest are given in Appendix III.

Thus, the National Institute took over the collections assembled by the Columbian Institute and by John Varden. For four years following its organization in 1840, the National Institute was exceedingly active and prosperous. In rooms made available at the Patent Office Building (fig. 3) it gathered, under the name of the "National Cabinet of Curiosities," a nucleus for a national museum.

A report of the Committee of the National Institute dated January 1, 1842, indicates numismatic holdings

⁶ *Bulletin of the Proceedings of the National Institution for the Promotion of Science*, Washington, 1841, vol. 1, p. 94; G. BROWN GOODE, "The Genesis of the National Museum," p. 274 in *Report of the U.S. National Museum . . . 1891* (Washington, 1892). In fact, the history of some of the objects in the National Museum may be traced back to the cabinet of the Columbian Institute.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 349.

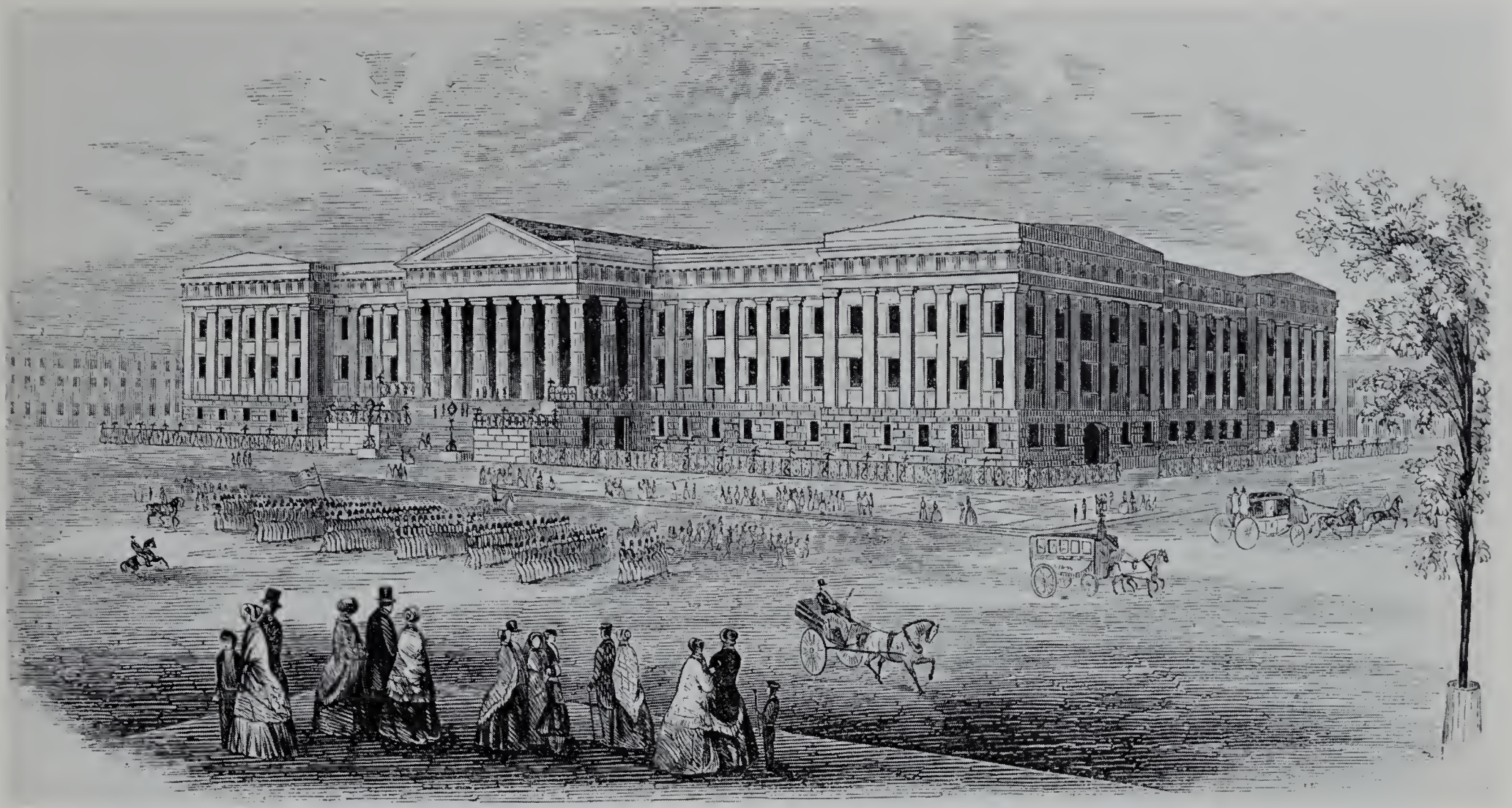


Fig. 3.—A VIEW OF THE PATENT OFFICE BUILDING, Washington, D.C. (from *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion*, 1853).

that even included 500 plaster castings of medals and seals.⁸ The exhibits featured a scattering of numismatic material, but no particular area was devoted to a general numismatic display. The Institute helped to create a public opinion favorable to the establishment of a national museum as an idea worthy of consideration by the United States Government. It failed, however, to secure public recognition, and it lost impetus after the Smithsonian Institution was established. The transfer of its collections to the Smithsonian commenced in 1858 but was not completed until 1883.

We have rather detailed information about the scope of the Institute's numismatic collections and the various accretions of coins, paper currencies, and medals, as well as numismatic publications. This information may be found in the four *Bulletins* published by the National Institute from 1841 to 1846. These volumes record donations of more than 2,800 numismatic items received from about seventy donors (Appendix IV A).

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 347.

The exhibits arranged by the National Institute featured a scattering of numismatic material. No particular area was devoted to a general display of coins or paper money, the entire museum being set up mainly in the style of a cabinet of curiosities. Valuable information about some of the numismatic displays around 1852 may be found in a manuscript catalog prepared by John Varden and preserved in the Smithsonian Archives (Appendix IV B).

A more comprehensive account, at least in some respects, is given in a guidebook to the National Institute published in 1855 by Alfred Hunter, listing numismatic items on view in the "large and magnificent hall" (fig. 4) (Appendix IV C).

On August 10, 1846, an Act of Congress establishing the Smithsonian Institution was signed by President Polk, and on May 1, 1847, the cornerstone of its first building was laid on the Mall. In the early years of its existence and before any numismatic collections were assembled at the Institution, a Smithsonian project was conceived that indicates the expanding interest in coins and medals during the first half of the 19th century. Charles Coffin Jewett, widely

known pioneer of the American library movement and Assistant Secretary and Librarian of the Smithsonian, proposed to assemble a detailed account of all public libraries in the United States. Aware that libraries are frequently the repositories of collections of coins and medals, Jewett, in his circular to these libraries, asked if they had any collection of medals or coins, and "If so, please to state the number of articles of each description."⁹ The results of his efforts, incorporating information received through 1850, were published in a 207-page report printed in 1851. It shows that 40 libraries in 14 different states had collections totaling about 10,000 coins and 1,000 medals. Because of their importance for the history of numismatics in the United States, all data on coins and medals contained in the Jewett report are presented in Appendix V.

After Jewett's departure from the Smithsonian in 1855, the Secretary, Joseph Henry, tried to continue his project. In a letter dated December 24, 1858, he asked the United States Mint for an account of their

numismatic library and collections to be used in a Smithsonian book on United States public libraries.¹⁰ The reply on December 29, 1858, forwarding a listing of their books, mentions previous correspondence in November 1857 on the same subject. Unfortunately, Joseph Henry never published the wealth of detailed information assembled for this project.

In addition to the accession lists, several papers published during the period 1860-1880 in the Smithsonian's *Annual Reports* are of special numismatic interest (see Appendix VI). The accessions mention a scattering of foreign coins, paper currencies, and some medals. A set of Japanese gold and silver coins was presented by Japan's Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (1870-1872), the Honorable Arinori Mori,¹¹ to mention a characteristic example of the donations received. Also, as a result of general requests for library materials, some publications were added, such as British Museum catalogues on ancient Greek coins¹² and some numismatic periodicals.

GROWTH OF THE COLLECTIONS, 1880-1923

The period after 1880 marked a turning point for numismatic endeavors at the Smithsonian. This era was introduced by two equally important events: the centennial exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, which left such an enormous quantity of material in the custody of the Smithsonian Institution that a new structure (the United States National Museum, now the Arts and Industries Building) had to be erected; and the appointment of George Brown Goode as Assistant Secretary in charge of this Museum. Many of the guiding principles expressed by Goode in the 1880s were not realized in numismatics until 1961 when the first series of modernized monetary-history exhibits was set up.¹³

Goode was a collector of coins and medals. As a result, he understood the peculiar character of the study of numismatics and recognized the problems it posed as a museum discipline. In some instances, the exhibit methods suggested by Goode were dictated by his overriding idea of their educational and instructive scope, to such an extent that they may well have appeared impractical. In 1881 he suggested that "a collection of the standard works on numismatics shown in a case adjoining a collection of coins, would have a decided educational value, giving the public information which they would otherwise have to seek from curators."¹⁴ Another of Goode's ideas on the presentation of numismatic ex-

⁹ CHARLES C. JEWETT, "Appendix to the Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, Containing a Report on the Public Libraries of the United States of America, January 1, 1850," in *Fourth Annual Report of Regents of the Smithsonian . . .* Washington, 1850, p. 5, note.

¹⁰ National Archives, Records of the United States Mint at Philadelphia, Correspondence.

¹¹ *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, Showing the Operations, Expenditures, and Condition of the Institution for the Year 1872* [hereinafter cited as *SI Report*], p. 59.

For other accessions during the period 1860-1880, see the *Annual Reports* for: 1860, pp. 79, 83; 1864, p. 88; 1869, p. 54; 1870, p. 49; 1872, pp. 57, 59; 1874, p. 56; 1875, pp. 76f.; 1876, p. 89; 1877, p. 102; 1878, p. 100; 1879, pp. 94, 98; 1880, pp. 19f, 65f, 111.

¹² *Ibid.*, 1877, p. 28.

¹³ G. BROWN GOODE, *Museum History and Museums of History*, New York, 1889, pp. 262-263.

¹⁴ *SI Report*, 1881, p. 87.



Fig. 4.—SOUTH HALL IN THE MUSEUM of the United States Patent Office. (From *United States Magazine*, 1856).

hibits may be gleaned from Professor S. F. Baird in his Secretary's report in the Smithsonian's *Annual Report* for 1886: "It is intended to arrange a series of the coins by countries, showing with them also paper currency and postage stamps, giving, as far as possible, the history of each coinage."¹⁵ This casual comment again demonstrates Goode's enlightened direction and independent mind. Only in its most

¹⁵ *SI Report*, 1886, Part 1, p. 36.

recent exhibits, however, has the National Museum succeeded in breaking away from the traditional metalistic approach in numismatics.

Possibly it was because of Goode's concern with numismatics and his understanding of the peculiar character of the science that in the beginning numismatics was considered as a separate entity. The National Museum's *Report* for 1886 lists "coins and medals" as a separate group amounting to 1,055

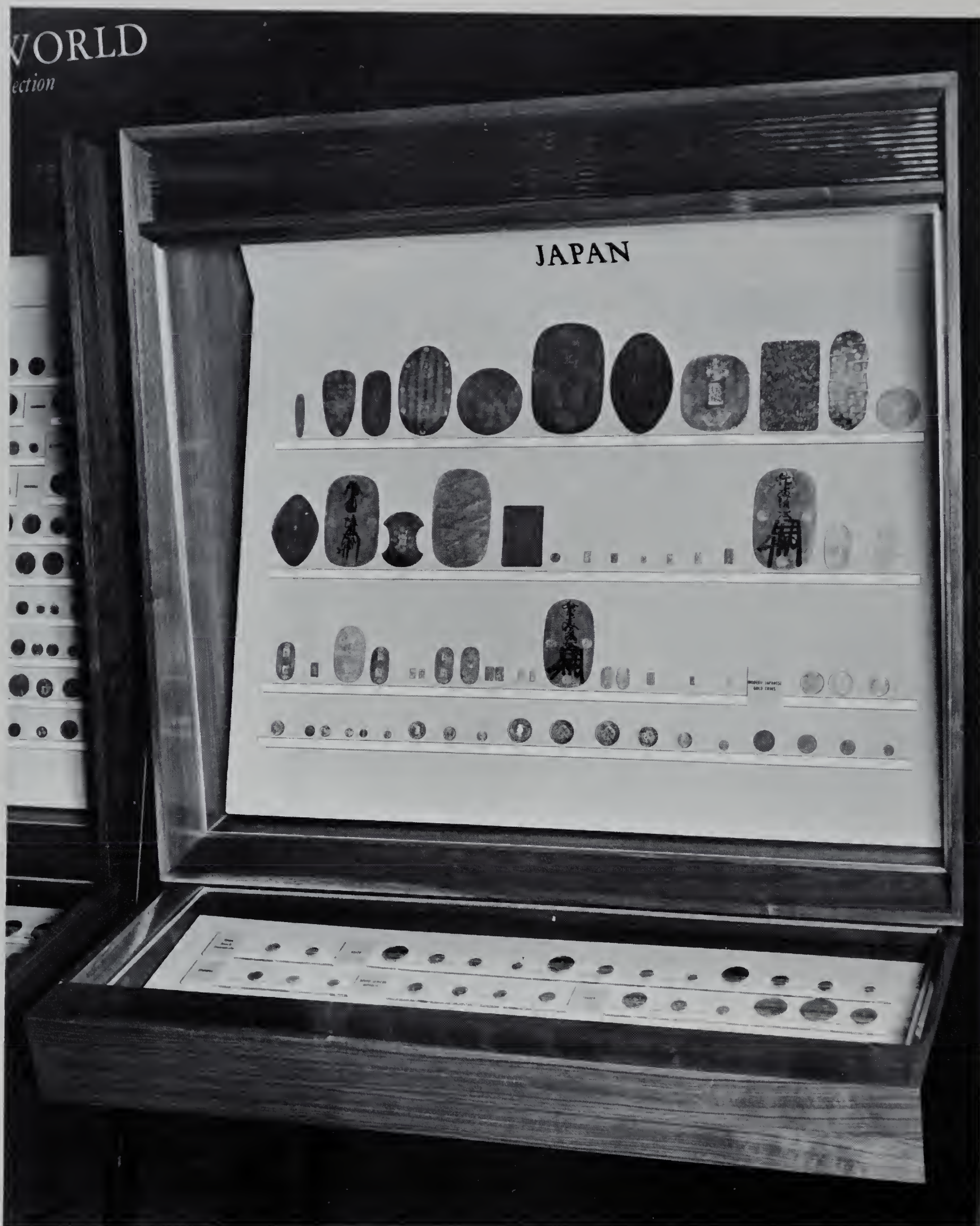


Fig. 5.—JAPANESE GOLD PIECES from the President Grant collection on exhibit in the Smithsonian's Monetary History Hall, 1961.

items.¹⁶ Shortly, however, the separate count was discontinued and not for many decades was numismatics again recognized as a separate division.

In 1893 the entire numismatic collection was withdrawn from display and stored after being crowded out by the expanding natural history collections. At this time an attempt was made to assemble a general collection of currencies of the world, and numismatic acquisitions were both numerous and varied. Some major additions to the Museum's numismatic holdings indicate the general growth trend of the collections. One of the most outstanding groups of coins received was a collection of rare Japanese gold and silver pieces (fig. 5) which came to the Museum in November 1886 together with other relics once owned by General Ulysses S. Grant. Details of this collection are given in Appendix VII.

Another major accession was a collection of Far Eastern coins bequeathed to the Smithsonian by George Bunker Glover. Received in 1897, this collection of 2,025 Chinese, Annamese, Siamese, Japanese, and Korean coins, amulets, and paper money was considered at the time to be the most perfect of its kind.¹⁷ (At the same time, Paul Beckwith, who was versed in numismatics, was appointed as an aide.) The Glover collection formed the basis for Sir James Haldane Stewart Lockhart's three-volume study *The Currency of the Farther East from Earliest Times up to the Present Day* (Hong Kong, 1897–1898). During this period the Smithsonian obtained a variety of United States and foreign coins, paper currencies, and medals. Much significant numismatic material with association value was also added to the collections. Included are 16 gold and two silver medals awarded to Rear Admiral Robert E. Perry in recognition of his achievements in Arctic exploration and the group of six gold and 13 silver medals conferred on Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury by foreign governments in recognition of his services to science and navigation.

The efforts made in the 1880s toward building an adequate numismatic library were not consciously continued. (For further information about the library and Smithsonian publications with numismatic connotations see Appendix VI.) The problem of exhibit space was partially solved by the introduction of upright cases, but still only a fraction of the numismatic



Fig. 6.—THEODORE T. BELOTE (1881–1953), curator of the Division of History, Smithsonian Institution, 1908–1950 (photo courtesy Mrs. T. Belote).

collection could be exhibited and most of it remained in storage. The lack of space for numismatic displays continued generally unchanged until 1914. Room was made, however, for showing some 300 Polish coins dating from the late 14th to the mid 19th century which were presented by the Polish National Alliance. This display was arranged in 1912 by Theodore T. Belote (fig. 6), who had been appointed assistant curator in the Division of History in 1909.¹⁸ His ap-

¹⁶ *Report of the United States National Museum under the Direction of the Smithsonian Institution* [hereinafter cited as *USNM Report*], 1893, p. 121.

¹⁷ *SI Report*, 1897, p. 15; *USNM Report*, 1897, p. 73; *The Numismatist*, vol. 11, 1898, pp. 77f.

¹⁸ Born in 1881, on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Theodore T. Belote studied at the University of Richmond and did graduate work at Harvard where he took his master's degree. He studied also at the Universities of Berlin and Leipzig and taught history at the University of Cincinnati before coming to the Smithsonian in 1908. After 42 years of service with the National Museum, he retired in 1950. He died on December 1, 1953, in Washington, D.C. Following is a short bibliography of Belote's numismatic papers which apply specifically to the national collection: "The Numismatic Group of the National Historical Collection," in *The Numismatist* (1925), vol. 38, pp. 534–539; "Medals of Award in the Historical Collection of the United States National Museum," op. cit. (1927), vol. 40, pp. 722–728; "Foreign Medals of Award in the Historical Collections of the United States National Museum," op. cit. (1929), vol. 42, pp. 123–126; "Hard Money in Ancient Times," *The World is Yours* (Feb. 19, 1940), vol. 1, no. 20, published by Columbia University Press in connection with the Smithsonian Institution Radio Program, 14 pp.

pointment provided a fresh opportunity for the development of numismatic collections in the Smithsonian, for Belote had particular inclinations toward this discipline. Also, in the years from 1910 to 1914, with the addition of a new museum building for natural history, space was gradually released in the Arts and Industries Building and the numismatic exhibit area was expanded. By 1914 Belote had finished selecting, classifying, cleaning, and labeling coins and medals for the display.

During World War I and in the early postwar years, the numismatic acquisitions were heavily weighted toward medals and decorations. Most noteworthy was the addition in 1918 of 1,200 medallic Lincolniana which had been assembled by Robert Hewitt.¹⁹ This group included medals, coins, tokens, and badges relating to almost every notable event of Lincoln's career. While most of the material was of purely historical and numismatic interest, many pieces were of artistic merit as well, particularly those struck in commemoration of the Lincoln Centennial in 1909 (figs. 7-8). In 1919 the Museum started a collection of World War I awards, decorations, commemorative medals, German satirical issues, and emergency currencies which was systematically assembled over a period of several years.²⁰ In 1920, for instance, an attempt was made to gather a complete collection of Liberty Loan posters.

The most important event of this period was the transfer of the Mint collection from Philadelphia to the Smithsonian. The curator of the Mint collection, Dr. T. Louis Comparette, died suddenly in July 1922. When the Mints were closed to the visiting public that year, because of a robbery at the Denver Mint, the Secretary of the Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, was prompted to suggest the transfer of the Philadelphia Mint's numismatic collection to Washington in a letter to Charles D. Walcott, Secretary of the Smithsonian, on February 8, 1923:

It has recently been deemed advisable in the interest of safety to close the United States Mints to visitors. As you are aware, there is a large numismatic collection in the Mint at Philadelphia. Since the Mint is to be permanently closed to visitors the inspection of the collection by the public is no longer possible. There is an important and very beautiful selection of coins, tokens and medals, perhaps the largest and most complete numismatic collection

¹⁹ *USNM Report*, 1918, p. 27; *SI Report*, 1918, p. 30.

²⁰ *USNM Report*, 1919, p. 65; 1920, p. 25; 1921, p. 135; 1922, p. 123. *SI Report*, 1919, pp. 27, 30; 1920, pp. 41, 132.



Fig. 7.—LINCOLN PORTRAIT by Victor D. Brenner, 1909. Preliminary model for coin design.

owned by the Government. The logical place for this collection would seem to be in the National Museum in Washington, and I am writing to ask if you would consider it feasible to have the collection transferred there. In case you consider the undertaking favorably may I suggest that you designate a representative of the National Museum to inspect the collection in order that you may be advised as to its scope and importance, and as to other details involved in the proposed transfer.

The Curator of the Mint at Philadelphia died several months ago, but we have made no special effort to fill the position for the reason that the removal of the collection to Washington has been tentatively considered for some time.

The collection is under the jurisdiction of the Director of the Mint, and I shall be glad to instruct that officer to place before you all available information in regard to it. I am enclosing a Catalogue of the coins, tokens and medals which may be of interest to you in considering the proposed transfer of the collection from the Mint to the National Museum.

Formal acceptance by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution followed on February 19, 1923, and on February 28, Belote was authorized to inspect the collection at the Mint in preparation for its packing and transportation. Afterward, Belote re-



Fig. 8.—LINCOLN MEDAL by Jules Édouard Roiné, 1909.

marked: "I found that the size and importance of the collection has been very materially increased since my last visit to the Mint in Philadelphia and that the acceptance of this collection will place the National Museum in the front rank of the museums of the world so far as the science of numismatics is concerned."²¹

In 1923 the United States Mint collection was transferred from Philadelphia (figs. 9–11) to the Smithsonian Institution. This numerically extensive collection not only increased the holdings of the national cabinet, but, through the historical connotations of many of its pieces, also augmented the importance of this cabinet. (For the history of the Mint collection and the details and documents concerning the transfer see Appendix VIII.)

A total of 18,291 specimens were included in the transfer, increasing the holdings of the national numismatic collections from 21,523 to 39,814 items. In addition to the numismatic material, the Mint transferred 814 numismatic books selected by Belote

from the specialized library at the Philadelphia Mint in December 1924.

As a result of the decision by Chief Coiner Adam Eckfeldt (fig. 12) and Mint Assayer William E. Du Bois (fig. 13) to retain the finest numismatic examples that were struck or appeared in deposit for recoinage, the Mint collection is rich in rare specimens. Foremost among these are early issues (figs. 14–15), early patterns (figs. 16–19), early gold proofs (figs. 20–24), great rarities in the gold series (figs. 25–29), historically important specimens (figs. 30–36), as well as rarities in the later pattern series (figs. 37–48). The Mint's retention policy included also the historically important private gold issues (figs. 49–56), as well as rare foreign striking (figs. 57–60), medals (figs. 61–62), plaquettes (figs. 63–64), and decorations (figs. 65–66).

Despite these efforts, the United States coins series is not complete. "A cursory examination of the contents of the collection will reveal its exceedingly fragmentary condition," noted T. L. Comparette, curator of the Mint, in his "Cataloguer's Note" to the Mint catalogue.²² There are very few branch mint issues and, even among the Philadelphia Mint coinages, regular striking are often missing while many of the proof coins are present. To augment the holdings, there have been frequent purchases of ancient, medieval, and foreign coins as well as United States coins. A 1914 listing of 469 United States medals in the collection showed that, while the group was incomplete, official medals were well represented.

Another important contribution from the United States Treasury was several engraved steel plates used by the Confederate States government for the issuance of paper currencies in 1861. These plates for 5-, 10-, 20-, 50-, and 100-dollar notes were seized by Major General B. F. Butler at New Orleans in April 1862 and sent to the Secretary of the Treasury (fig. 67).²³

²¹ For the importance of the collection, see *USNM Report*, 1923, pp. 126f.

²² *Catalogue of Coins, Tokens, and Medals in the Numismatic Collection of the Mint of the United States* . . ., 1914 ed., p. 675.

²³ *USNM Report*, 1926, p. 113.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS, 1923–1948

No special curator of numismatics was appointed after the transfer in 1923 of the Mint collection to the Smithsonian, and Theodore T. Belote, curator of the Division of History, remained in charge of the collections until 1948. They continued to increase—mainly through donations—from 40,285 pieces in 1924 to 45,802 in 1933, and by 1948 to 54,175 pieces.

Curator Belote noticed during the Depression the development of various forms of scrip and initiated an intense correspondence in an attempt to secure for the national collections examples of various local emergency issues. In many instances the response was prompt and it was thus possible to assemble 266 specimens issued from 1931 to 1933 by banks, business firms, municipalities, and other organizations in the United States.

Among the more important additions of medallic material received during the 25-year period 1923–1948 was a collection of nearly 300 medals and plaquettes assembled by the eminent American author and diplomat Brand Whitlock. Also during this period the

American Numismatic Association loan collection was installed at the Smithsonian.

In the early twenties Moritz Wormser (fig. 68) conceived and promoted the idea of a display at the Smithsonian to be sponsored by the American Numismatic Association, of which he was president (1921–1926). The idea originated at the A.N.A. national convention in 1922 when Wormser delivered an address aiming to set forth the historical value and importance of numismatics. He made an impassioned plea for the recognition and development of numismatics through governmental support of the national collections and through the inclusion of the study of numismatics in university education. His well-documented address, a product of thorough study of the situation in foreign countries, was widely circulated as a special 16-page pamphlet. Wormser sent the pamphlet with a personal letter to, among others, A. Howard Clark, secretary of the American Historical Association and for many years a ranking official of the Smithsonian Institution, and Theodore T. Belote. A close and rewarding co-

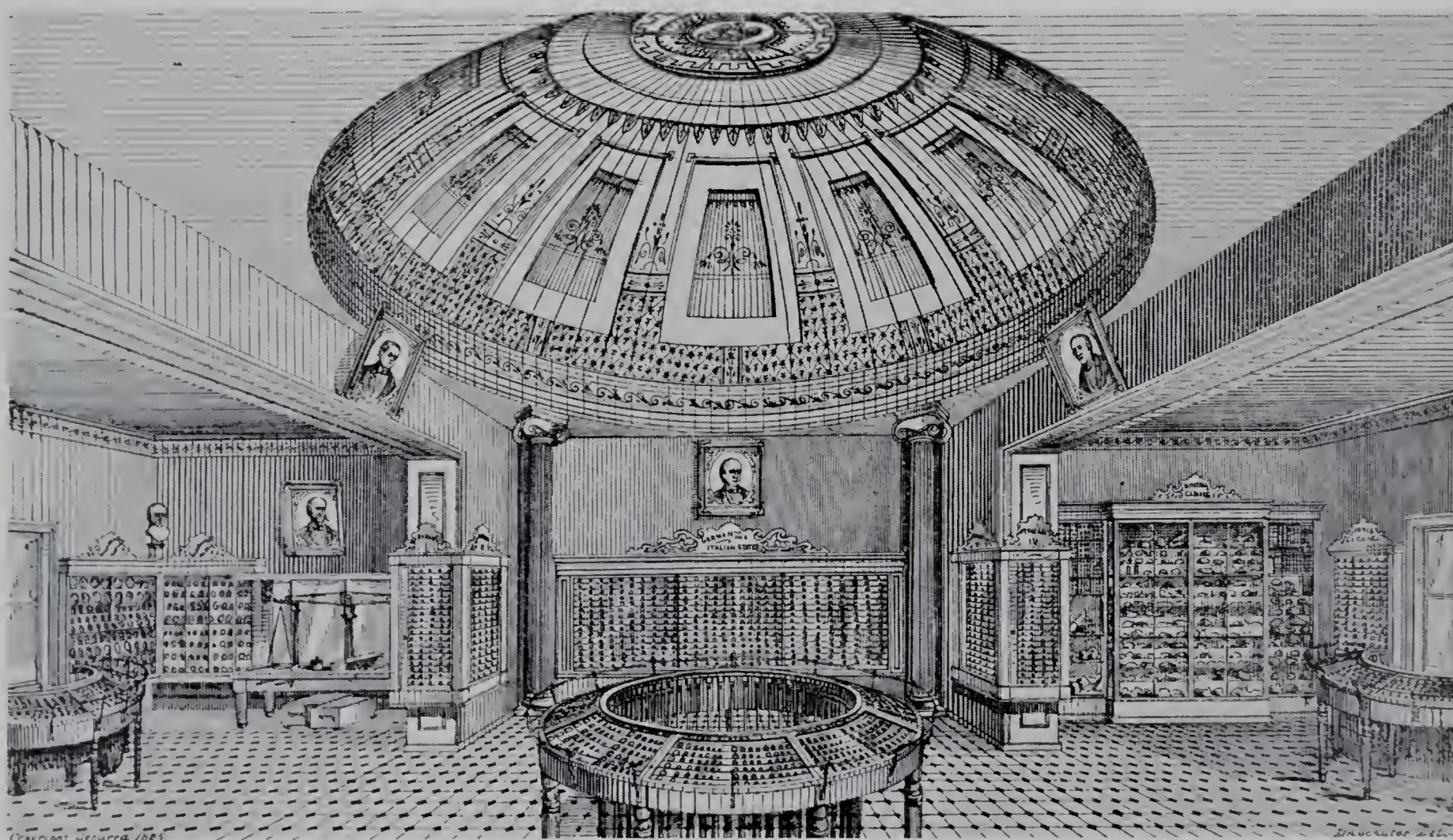


Fig. 9.—VIEW OF THE NUMISMATIC DISPLAY at the United States Mint in Philadelphia, 1885.
(From A. M. Smith, *Visitor's Guide and History of the United States Mint*, 1885).



Fig. 10.—NUMISMATIC ROOM in the new Mint building in Philadelphia, 1902 (from *Annual Report of the Director of the Mint*, 1902).

operation soon developed between Wormser and Belote. In retrospect it is clear that one central idea guided Wormser in all his actions—to increase the size and importance of the national numismatic holdings through joint efforts until it would rank with such great representative collections as those in London, Paris, and Berlin. He considered this as a mission of the American Numismatic Association, deriving from its national character and in accord with the purpose of its federal incorporation.

At the association's annual convention in 1925, a resolution was passed authorizing the president to appoint three persons—preferably residents of the Washington, D.C., area—as the “A.N.A. Smithsonian Committee” which would cooperate with the Institution on numismatic problems. The same resolution considered the establishment, through this committee, of a numismatic collection to be placed on loan

exhibition at the Smithsonian. In 1927 an A.N.A. collection was started by means of a fund donated by Robert P. King of Erie, Pennsylvania. It was exhibited at the Smithsonian in 1928. Throughout the depression and until his death in 1940, Wormser continued to work at building up this loan collection. Since then it has continued to grow under the sponsorship of the association. At this writing plans are under way for the establishment of A.N.A. headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado. When this headquarters is established the entire A.N.A. collection will be transferred from the Smithsonian to that location.

A major change took place in the Smithsonian numismatic collection in 1931 when it was moved from its poorly lighted quarters (fig. 129) to a smaller but much brighter area of the Arts and Industries Building (fig. 130) where it remained until its transfer to the Museum of History and Technology.

RECENT HISTORY, 1948-1966

With the help of the continued interest shown by numismatic circles and particularly by the American Numismatic Association, the Division of Numismatics was formally established and Stuart Mosher (fig. 69), editor of *The Numismatist*, was appointed on August 27, 1948, acting curator of the Division. He held this post until his death in February 1956.²⁴

The collections, which consisted of 54,175 specimens in 1948, had increased by 1956 to 64,522. This growth includes the famous Paul A. Straub (fig. 70) collection consisting of 1,793 gold and 3,855 silver coins.²⁵ In addition, Straub continued over the years to contribute to the national numismatic collections. The entire donation finally totaled 1,860 gold and 3,886 silver coins. (For details of the transaction see Appendix IX.)

The importance of this addition to the numismatic collections is of much more significance than simple numbers could tell. This collection was built up with discriminating taste and specialized knowledge over many years, in part with deliberate design to fill a very obvious gap in the Smithsonian's holdings. It covers the period from the 14th to the 20th centuries, ignoring minor varieties and insisting on a general representation of different types and particularly of the larger multiple units in gold (figs. 71-73) and silver (fig. 74).

During this period there were many other noteworthy donations such as a gift from the McCormick-Goodhart collection of 118 medals commemorating the 1739-1741 victories of Admiral Edward Vernon

(fig. 75),²⁶ the seal press (figs. 76-77) and tools used by Edward Stabler,²⁷ the well-known Maryland die-sinker and steel engraver, and 43 medals and decorations²⁸ awarded to Dr. William Crawford Gorgas (1854-1920) for his work as sanitation engineer with the Panama Canal Commission.

From February through September 1956 Mr. Mendel Peterson served as acting curator of the Division until the appointment in October of that year of the present curator. In 1957 followed the appointment of Mrs. Elvira Clain-Stefanelli, first as assistant curator and in 1959 as associate curator.

New horizons were opened for the development of the national numismatic collections with the planning for an expanded exhibit program in the new Museum of History and Technology.

The broadening of the concept of numismatics along modern scientific lines and the departure from antiquated trends of thought dominated by metalism are worthy of note. Careful consideration was given to all changes of money economy from simple barter to deposit currency, which in complex modern financial transactions often replaces hard cash.

The exhibits built in accordance with these new concepts were opened in March 1961 in the Arts and Industries Building and after the completion of the Museum of History and Technology in 1964 were installed in October of that year in the Hall of Monetary History and Medallion Art. The staff of the Division of Numismatics had moved to the new location in March 1964. By that time it had been augmented by the addition of Mr. Charles D. Wilkinson, Mr. Carl H. Jaeschke, and Mr. R. LeGette Burris. Mrs. Cora L. Gilliland joined the staff in 1965.

There was a rapid increase in the holdings of the Division. From 32 accessions comprising 233 specimens in 1957, the accessions rose to 249 in 1966, while the total holdings climbed from 64,755 in 1957 to 199,747. It is impossible, however, to evaluate contributions to the national collections on the basis of numbers or quantities of the donations. In some

²⁴ Born in Canada, Mr. Mosher settled in Buffalo, New York, in 1926, and became associate in numismatics at the Buffalo Museum of Science. While there he wrote his popular book, *The Story of Money as Told by the Knox Collection* (Buffalo, N.Y., 1936). He left Buffalo in 1935 for New York City where he was associated with Wayte Raymond and helped to edit *The Coin Collector's Journal*. He also was joint author with Wayte Raymond of *Coins of the World; the Standard Catalogue of Twentieth Century Issues* (New York, 1938). In addition, he joined the staff of the New Netherlands Coin Company. In January 1945 he became editor of *The Numismatist*. Among his publications is the very useful paper "Coin Mottoes and Their Translations" which appeared in *The Numismatist* in 1948 and as a reprint. He died on February 20, 1956. For his obituary see *The Numismatist*, 1956, p. 275.

²⁵ *USNM Report*, 1949, p. 75 indicates 1,808 and 3,844 respectively as total numbers; a recount established instead the numbers given above. See also, *SI Report*, 1949, p. 21.

²⁶ *USNM Report*, 1951, p. 55.

²⁷ *USNM Report*, 1951, p. 55; *SI Report*, 1951, p. 20.

²⁸ *USNM Report*, 1955, p. 17; *SI Report*, 1955, p. 23.

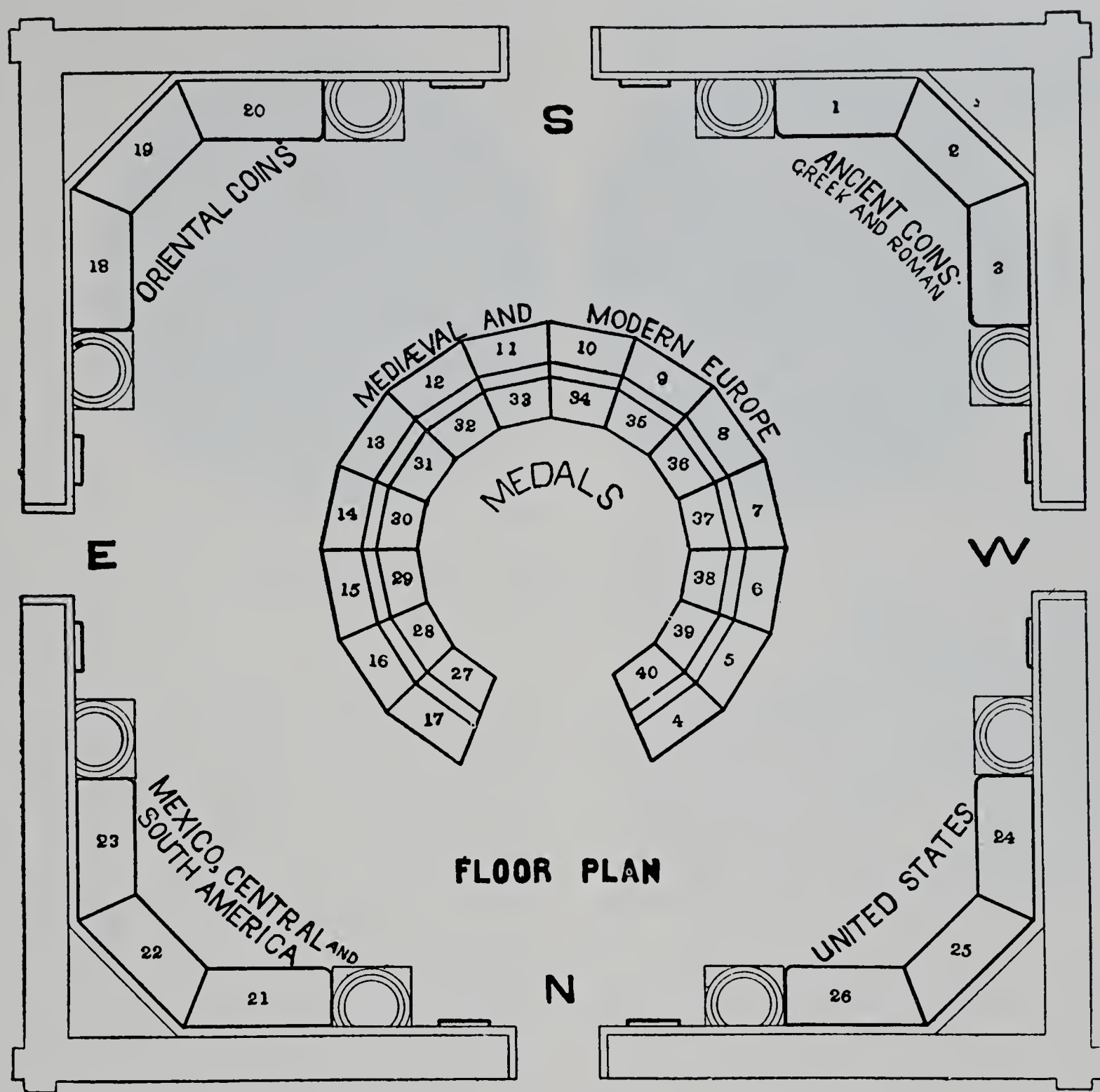


Fig. 11.—FLOOR PLAN of the numismatic exhibit at the Mint arranged by T. D. Comparette (from *Guide to the Numismatic Collection of the Mint*, 1913).

cases the gift of a single specimen will exceed in significance another contribution of thousands of items, because historical importance—not intrinsic value—is the primary consideration. Thus an heirloom from the Theodore Roosevelt family (fig. 86)²⁹ or from Mr. Kent Packard, a descendant of the noted engraver Christian Gobrecht, arouses special interest (figs. 94–97). A group of original sketches, designs on mica, and models prepared for the 1836–1838 coinage by Christian Gobrecht (figs. 79–82), as well as additional materials illustrative of the work of mint engravers William Kneass, J. B. Longacre, George T. Morgan (fig. 84), and William Barber are invaluable

research materials for the study of die-sinking techniques in the United States since the early 19th century. Among important die trials is the 1836 obverse design by Gobrecht of a half dollar struck on an octagonal planchet (fig. 78). Two other unique documents worthy of note are the original dies prepared in 1861 by Robert Lovett, Jr., in Philadelphia, for the proposed striking by the Confederacy of a copper cent (fig. 85),³⁰ and the only surviving complete set of six Confederate “chemicograph” currency plates manufactured by S. Straker and Sons in London.

²⁹ *USNM Report*, 1961, p. 52.
³⁰ *USNM Report*, 1962, p. 46; see also, JOHN J. FORD, “The Confederate Cent,” *The Coin Collector’s Journal* (1951), pp. 9–14.

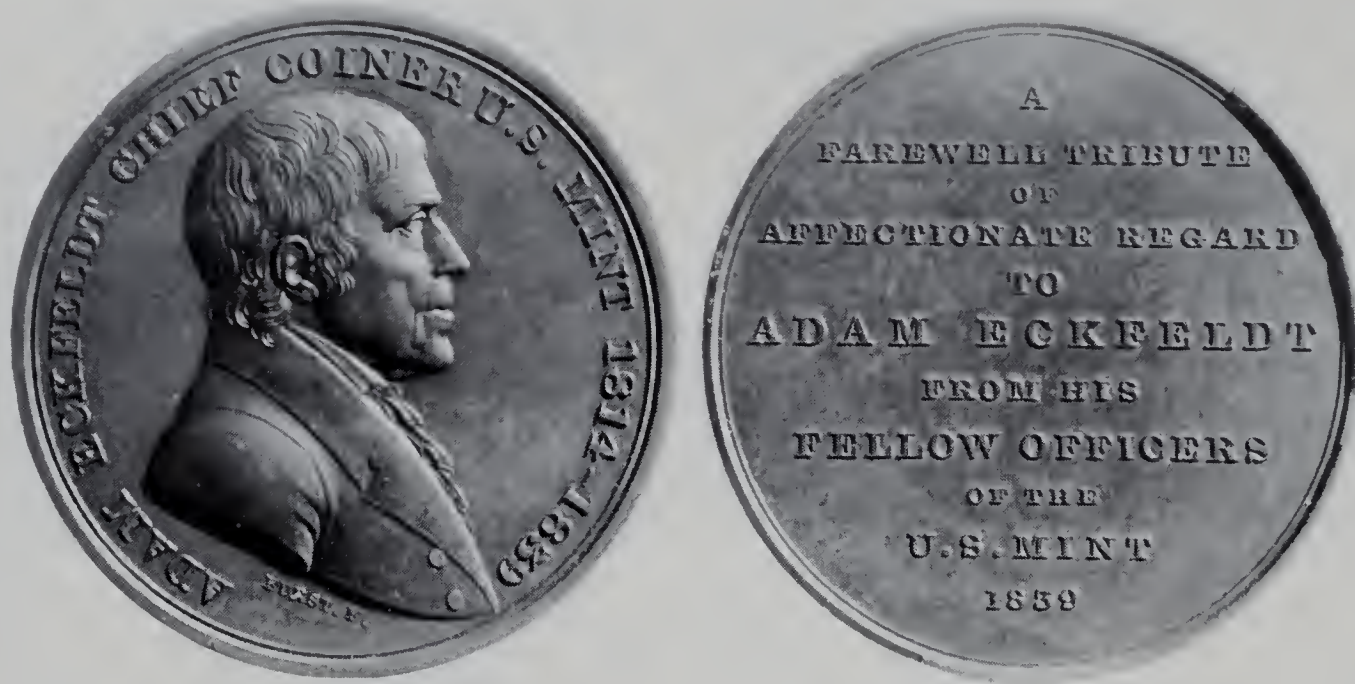


Fig. 12.—ADAM ECKFELDT (1769–1852), chief coiner of the United States Mint.

The United States paper money collection has been considerably increased through numerous donations of Colonial notes—including some uncut sheets—obsolete state bank notes, a large and authoritative collection of Confederate notes, and Raphael P. Thian's album entitled "The Currency of the Confederate States. . . ." ³¹ Noteworthy is a copper plate dated September 26, 1778, used by the British in New York for counterfeiting 40-dollar Colonial notes (fig. 87). ³² Various phases of the history of United States paper money are illuminated by a few selected examples: two exceedingly rare "seal-skin" notes circulated in Alaska in 1816 by the Russo-American Company (fig. 88), a scrip for 6¼ cents issued by Gadsby's National Hotel in Washington in 1837 (fig. 89), a unique Sub-Treasury interest-bearing certificate of deposit for the amount of \$10,000 issued in 1862 (fig. 90), and a United States 100-dollar gold certificate, 1877 (fig. 91). ³³ The specimen printing of a 100,000-dollar gold certificate (fig. 92) is one from a large group of such printings of United States currency notes transferred by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

The remarkable growth in the medals section of the

national collection reflects the recently increased interest in this field in the United States. Indicative of this growth are additions such as early Washington portrait medals, a hitherto unknown variety of an 1843 Indian peace medal in pewter distributed by a Missouri fur-trading company (fig. 93), a gift from Harvey G. Stack, ³⁴ a group of early American medals depicting notable statesmen (figs. 94–97), and a unique gold John Paul Jones plaquette executed in 1906 by Victor D. Brenner, received from Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Snyderman. ³⁵

Particular importance attaches to authoritative specialized collections such as the Polish coins assembled by Andrew Zabriskie (fig. 107), ³⁶ the Canadian and Newfoundland coinages received from the Honorable and Mrs. R. H. Norweb (fig. 119), ³⁷ the vast paper money series issued within the Austrian Empire (fig. 121) coming from Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Neinken, and especially Willis H. du Pont's famous Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich collection of Russian coins and medals (figs. 109–118, 124–125). ³⁸ This Russian group is exceeded in extent and importance only by the holdings of the Hermitage Museum.

³¹ *USNM Report*, 1963, p. 41; *SI Report*, 1963, p. 37.

³² Cf. ERIC P. NEWMAN, "Counterfeit Continental Currency Goes to War," *The Numismatist* (1957), vol. 70, pp. 5–6, 137–147; and by the same author, "The Successful British Counterfeiting of American Paper Money During the American Revolution," *The British Numismatic Journal* (1958), vol. 29, pp. 174–187.

³³ *USNM Report*, 1961, p. 53.

³⁴ *USNM Report*, 1963, p. 40; *SI Report*, 1963, p. 37.

³⁵ *USNM Report*, 1963, p. 41; *SI Report*, 1963, p. 37.

³⁶ *USNM Report*, 1962, p. 46; *SI Report*, 1962, p. 26.

³⁷ *USNM Report*, 1960, p. 41; 1963, pp. 40–41; *SI Report*, 1960, p. 18; 1963, p. 37.

³⁸ *USNM Report*, 1960, p. 41; 1961, p. 52; 1962, p. 46; 1963, p. 41; 1964, p. 52; 1965, p. 133; *SI Report*, 1960, pp. 17–18; 1961, p. 29; 1962, p. 20; 1963, p. 37; 1964, p. 31; 1965, p. 133.

Often large collections of a more general character have contributed considerably to the growth of the national coin cabinet. Such was the case with Mrs. Catherine Bullowa's donation of more than 21,000 items,³⁹ the 20th-century coins of the world of Mrs. Wayte Raymond⁴⁰ and Mrs. F. C. C. Boyd,⁴¹ and the Frederick Hauck assemblage of 2,478 gold coins and medals (fig. 123).⁴²

In no lesser measure additions of single, select items have often enhanced the research potentialities of the national coin cabinet. Among the ancient coins are many highly interesting pieces such as: a Celtic silver stater from the Danube region (fig. 99) bearing the name of "Sosthenes" in Illyric characters; an early Celtic gold $\frac{1}{2}$ stater (fig. 100) showing a barbarized design derived from a posthumous stater of Lysimachus; an apparently unpublished small bronze coin struck by the Macedonian city of Amphipolis (fig. 101); a bronze coin struck in Macedon during the time of Gordian III (A.D. 238-244) representing two temples of Beroia (fig. 102); a bronze medallion struck at Bizya, Thrace, in the name of Philippus I (A.D. 244-249) showing a view of the city with temple and public building (fig. 103); and a large Roman bronze so-called *contorniate* (A.D. 356-399) depicting a view of the Circus Maximus in Rome (fig. 104).

Representing substantial increases in the medieval section are a very rare bronze *follaro* struck during the 10th century at Salerno, Italy (fig. 105) and the highly artistic bracteate of Falkenstein illustrating German Gothic art influences on the coinage of the 12th century (fig. 106). The 1574 necessity $\frac{1}{4}$ gulden of Leyden stamped on cardboard during the Spanish siege of that city is one of the first examples of paper used in European currency (fig. 108).

The foreign paper holdings were virtually non-existent but have been built up since 1956 to one of the leading collections in the world through substantial donations by Mrs. Catherine Bullowa, the Messrs. Stack, and especially Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Neinken. The Hoscheck and Kubitschek collections from Vienna, Austria, of over 100,000 notes of the world, including one of the best specialized collections of Austrian notes, form the nucleus of this section in the



Fig. 13.—WILLIAM EWING DU BOIS (1810-1881),
Mint assayer.

national cabinet. A few highlights exemplify the historical value of many of these items: a Swedish note of credit, issued by the Stockholm Bank (fig. 120), is one of the first examples of bank notes printed in the western world; an extremely rare note issued by the Italians in the community of Osoppo in Lombardo-Venetia during the Austrian siege in 1848 (fig. 121); and another necessity note signed by General Charles G. Gordon in Khartoum, Sudan, during the siege by the Mahdi in 1884 (fig. 122).

The section of foreign medals has been built up systematically. An interesting touch was contributed by numerous additions of Russian medals of the 18th and early 19th centuries which came through the W. H. du Pont donation (figs. 124-125), by fine Swedish gold medals received from the F. Hauck collection (fig. 123), and by a group of Spanish-American proclamation pieces commemorating the advent of the last Spanish kings, presented by Mr.

³⁹ *USNM Report*, 1959, p. 50.

⁴⁰ *USNM Report*, 1963, p. 41; 1964, p. 52; 1965, p. 133; *SI Report*, 1963, p. 37; 1964, p. 31; 1965, p. 133.

⁴¹ *USNM Report*, 1963, p. 41; 1964, p. 52; 1965, pp. 132-133; *SI Report*, 1963, p. 37; 1964, p. 31; 1965, p. 133.

⁴² *USNM Report*, 1965, p. 132; *SI Report*, 1965, p. 132.

Joseph B. Stack. The contemporary art medal was not forgotten and a fine representative group of foreign creations (fig. 126) has been added to the regular contributions received from the Medallic Art Company in New York. Of historical and technical interest is an obverse die used in 1565 for the striking of an English marriage medal of Mary, Queen of Scotland and Henry Darnley (fig. 127).

Finally, mention should be made of steady annual contributors such as various members of the Stack

family, Mr. Willis H. du Pont, Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Neinken, Mrs. Milton Holmes, and others. Through these regular and invaluable additions there has been a well-balanced increase of holdings within the various sections of the Division of Numismatics: coins and tokens; paper money; medallic art; documentation of the evolution of manufacturing techniques of coins, medals and paper currencies; and, as the most recent adjunct, documentation of the history of banking.

EXHIBITS

As the previous chapters have discussed the history and growth of the numismatic collections, this chapter gives a general view of the development of numismatic exhibits at the Smithsonian. Before 1860 these exhibits were few and casual. W. J. Rhees mentions only some Japanese gold and silver coins and some primitive media of exchange on display in the west gallery of the original Smithsonian Building.⁴³ Later, in 1886, the arrangement of the collection of medals and moneys of the world was begun and about 2,000 specimens were placed on exhibition in the north hall of the Arts and Industries Building, in an effort to show the monetary standards of different nations and to give the origin of various denominations.⁴⁴ Also in the exhibit was a series of bronze copies in duplicate of all medals struck by the United States Mint.⁴⁵ An exhibit was added in 1888 illustrating the money of Biblical times. Attention was also given to United States bonds and currency notes and, finally, to medals of reward and badges.⁴⁶

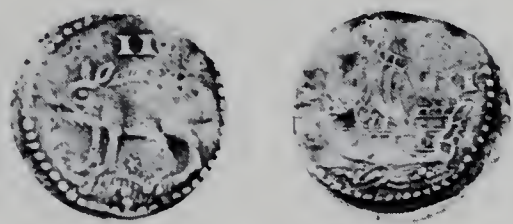


Fig. 14.—TWO PENCE PIECE of “Hogge Money” struck in the Sommer Islands (Bermuda) about 1616.



Fig. 15.—GOLD DOUBLOON struck 1787 by the New York goldsmith Ephraim Brasher.

In 1891, despite the lack of display space, an exhibit was installed illustrating Indian shell money of the early colonial period and also showing shells used for wampum and wampum belts. This exhibit, arranged by Dr. R. E. C. Stearns, an associate curator, was accompanied by an instructive pamphlet, giving a detailed history of the manufacture and uses of shell money. The medallic history of the United States also was shown by means of official medals struck by

⁴³ WILLIAM J. RHEES, *An Account of the Smithsonian Institution, its Founder, Building, Operations, etc., Prepared from the Reports of Prof. Henry to the Regents, and Other Authentic Sources*, Washington, 1859, pp. 72-74.

⁴⁴ *USNM Report*, 1887, p. 12.

⁴⁵ *USNM Report*, 1886, p. 12.

⁴⁶ *USNM Report*, 1888, pp. 115f.

⁴⁷ *USNM Report*, 1890, p. 142.

order of Congress, medals commemorating local events, and medals and tokens delineating the history of Presidential campaigns.⁴⁸

These promising beginnings came to a sudden end in 1893, when numismatic exhibits were crowded out by the rapidly and vigorously expanding natural history collections. At this time the entire numismatic collection was withdrawn from display and placed in storage. After his appointment as an aide in 1897, Paul Beckwith attempted to solve the exhibit space problem by introducing the “use of upright cases with sloping diaphragms covered with olive-green velvet”⁴⁹ for coin display, but this was not completely successful. Only a fraction of the numismatic material could be displayed and most of it remained in storage—a situation generally unchanged until 1914—except for occasional temporary exhibits.



Fig. 16.—PATTERN COPPER CENT, 1792.

A new museum structure for natural history released space in the old Arts and Industries Building and provided fresh opportunities for the development of exhibits. By 1914 Theodore T. Belote (appointed in 1909 as assistant curator in the Division of History) had completed a selection of coins and medals and they were placed on exhibit in the northwest court (fig. 128).⁵⁰ More than 6,000 coins and medals were installed in 27 flattop cases, 8 of which were devoted to coins of the United States and its possessions, 11 to European countries, and 8 to Asia and Africa. Colonial American and United States coins, United States medals, and a series of “hard times” tokens were arranged in 12 historical and topical groupings. The foreign specimens were arranged alphabetically according to the countries of each continent. The European countries display included a group of 314 Polish coins, a large series of English and French historic medals, and a large set of fine Papal medals. Most of the other foreign medals came from the extensive H. Adams and G. B. Goode collections. In



Fig. 17.—PATTERN DISME in copper, 1792.

1917 this display was augmented by the Thomas Kelly Boggs collection of more than 300 foreign decorations, medals of award, and badges. The display of African and Asiatic coins and medals was fairly well documented; the Chinese representation was impressive, numbering more than 2,000 pieces, most of which came from the George B. Glover bequest.

The greatest opportunity for expansion of exhibits came when the Philadelphia Mint collection, along with its display cases, arrived at the Museum in July 1923. The arrangement of this exhibit entailed considerable planning and intense work, which, according to Belote's report,⁵¹ was divided into three phases: “The first of these included the removal from the west-north hall of the Arts and Industries Building of the collection of historical materials already occupying this space and its installation elsewhere; the second included the mechanical work of setting up in this space the cases received from the Treasury



Fig. 18.—PATTERN QUARTER DOLLAR, 1792.
Designed by Joseph Wright.

Department and preparing them for exhibition purposes; and the third included the actual installation of the numismatic collection” (fig. 129). The old exhibit cases from the Treasury Department were refurbished by adding lighting fixtures and substantial locks and made as suitable as possible for the installation of the valuable specimens. On March 31, 1924, the Secretary of the Smithsonian, Charles D. Walcott, wrote to Secretary of the Treasury Andrew W. Mellon that installation of the collection in the numismatic

⁴⁸ *USNM Report*, 1891, p. 151.

⁴⁹ *USNM Report*, 1897, p. 73.

⁵⁰ See also, *USNM Report*, 1914, pp. 32–35.

⁵¹ *USNM Report*, 1924, pp. 126–129.

hall was practically completed. The coins were divided into five main groups: ancient Greece and Rome; Roman-German Empire and modern Germany; United States; Mexico, the West Indies, Central and South America; and modern European countries and their colonies.

During 1925, as a special cooperative project with the American Numismatic Association, assistance was provided in setting up special exhibits installed for Coin Week (February 15–22),⁵² and similar arrangements for such exhibits were made in subsequent years.



Fig. 19.—PATTERN HALF DISME in copper, 1794, an intermediate step between the half disme of 1792 and the regular issue of 1794.

A rearrangement of the collections took place in 1925 and 1926,⁵³ when the numismatic hall was divided into four alcoves. These alcoves featured coins from North, Central, and South America, and the West Indies; ancient, medieval, and modern coins of Europe; a display of United States medals; and an exhibit of European medals. In the center of the hall was a large circular case with electrotypes of ancient coins on the inner circle, and modern European coins displayed in the exterior sections. All of the numismatic exhibits were revised in anticipation of the August 1926 meeting of the American Numismatic Association.⁵⁴ As mentioned previously, it was through the efforts of Moritz Wormser, president of the A.N.A., that funds were donated by Robert P. King of Erie, Pennsylvania, and a start was made on an A.N.A. collection which was placed with the Smithsonian on loan. The first exhibit from this collection was installed in 1928 in the numismatic hall.

During 1930–1931, the numismatic collection was moved to a smaller but better-lighted adjoining area (fig. 130),⁵⁵ where it remained until its transfer in 1964 to the Museum of History and Technology. The various sections of the collection were arranged



Fig. 20.—QUARTER EAGLE, 1821, proof.

in units to present coins of the United States; coins of Mexico, Central and South America; coins of ancient Greece and Rome; coins of the Holy Roman and German Empires; coins of various European countries; a series of American historical medals; and a series of European historical medals. There were also other displays of medals in an adjacent court which was referred to as the “philatelic and numismatic unit,”⁵⁶ and in the rotunda and in other areas.

An exhibit was added in 1932–1933 which featured coins, tokens, and paper currencies issued by state and local authorities, by commercial firms, and by private individuals from the Colonial period to the great depression in the thirties. Included in this special exhibit were Colonial and Continental paper currencies, so-called “hard times” tokens issued 1832–1844, and tokens of the Civil War period.⁵⁷ During 1934 a new case was assigned for the exhibition of United States patterns. Various series of United States medals previously on display in the rotunda were transferred to the numismatic hall, which made it necessary to remove the collection of scrip and emergency currencies from the exhibit. Along with this general rearrangement, United States military and naval decorations were moved from the west hall and placed on display in the rotunda of the Arts and Industries Building, and exhibits of foreign civil and military decorations were installed in the west hall.⁵⁸



Fig. 21.—HALF EAGLE, 1821, proof.

⁵² *USNM Report*, 1925, p. 116.

⁵³ *USNM Report*, 1926, p. 116.

⁵⁴ *USNM Report*, 1927, p. 126.

⁵⁵ *USNM Report*, 1931, p. 134; *SI Report*, 1931, p. 30.

⁵⁶ *USNM Report*, 1931, pp. 134f.

⁵⁷ *USNM Report*, 1933, p. 133.

⁵⁸ *USNM Report*, 1934, pp. 65f.



Fig. 22.—QUARTER EAGLE, 1841, proof.

Further progress was made during 1936 and 1937 when the numismatic hall was divided into an eastern and western section by a central north-south aisle.⁵⁹ The wall cases on the eastern side contained coins of the United States, Mexico, and Central and South America, while the floor cases featured ancient Greek and Roman coins. The wall cases on the west side contained coins of the various countries of Europe arranged in alphabetical order. Seven floor cases contained national and local United States medals. Two floor cases in the northwest corner of the hall were used for the special display of post World War I foreign coins lent by the American Numismatic Association, and this exhibit was enlarged to three cases in 1943.



Fig. 23.—EAGLE, 1838, proof.

During the forties, numerous additions and rearrangements took place. In 1944 improvements were made in the installation of the United States naval and military medals, showing their development from the Civil War period to World War II.⁶⁰ A display of coins and medals was added to the exhibits arranged in the foyer of the Museum of Natural History for the celebration of the Smithsonian Institution Centennial in August 1946. In the following year, under the joint auspices of the Smithsonian's Division of History, the Washington Numismatic Society, and the American Numismatic Society, a special display dedicated to Chinese coins of the 19th and 20th centuries was arranged in March in the foyer of the Museum of Natural History. The coins were the property of the

⁵⁹ *USNM Report*, 1937, p. 73.

⁶⁰ *USNM Report*, 1944, p. 69.

well-known Chinese numismatist Kalgan Shih who was then visiting the city.⁶¹ In January 1949 a temporary display of United States Presidential inaugural medals was placed on view in the rotunda of the Museum of Natural History.⁶² Also during 1949 most of the 106 existing panels in the numismatic hall were cleaned, repainted, and provided with new labels for all coins and medals, and the entire coin exhibit was arranged in alphabetical and chronological order.⁶³ As a security measure, shatterproof glass was installed in 19 upright wall cases and burglar alarms were added in 39 cases (25 more cases were similarly secured in 1954).⁶⁴



Fig. 24.—EAGLE, 1858, proof.

By early 1950 approximately half of the 1,793 gold coins from the Straub collection were put on display, arranged in geographical and cultural divisions which, in turn, were broken down into alphabetical and chronological series. (For details of the Straub collection see Appendix IX.)

Also, at this time, a representative exhibit comprising about 200 foreign and United States orders and decorations was arranged, and a selection of "paper money issued prior to and during the American Revolution by 12 of the 13 original Colonies was installed."⁶⁵ About 1950 the American Numismatic Association's Moritz Wormser Memorial Collection, which had increased to 2,000 specimens, was relabeled and rearranged.⁶⁶

Special exhibits were prepared for various occasions and during 1957 two displays were presented to public view in the coin hall: One depicted the history of the Reformation and the other was dedicated to 17th-century shooting matches in Saxony. For an exhibit on the United Nations in October 1957 in the

⁶¹ *USNM Report*, 1947, p. 67.

⁶² *USNM Report*, 1949, p. 78.

⁶³ *Ibid.*

⁶⁴ *USNM Report*, 1950, p. 79; 1954, p. 11.

⁶⁵ *USNM Report*, 1950, p. 80.

⁶⁶ *USNM Report*, 1951, p. 55.

Museum of Natural History, the division of numismatics contributed an extensive display of recent coins of the world. The following year, a special display of Napoleonic medals was set up in the Arts and Industries Building.

Planning for rearrangement of the coin hall (fig. 131) was started in 1956 and by 1958 it was decided to redesign it completely. Detailed scripts and preliminary designs were worked out by the curator and by Mrs. E. Clain-Stefanelli. The final exhibit layouts were prepared by Harry Hart.

Meanwhile, several temporary displays were set up during 1959. In February an exhibit illustrating Abraham Lincoln's life, his political aims, and his achievements as shown on medals was installed in the coin hall.⁶⁷ In May, on the occasion of a visit of King Baudouin of Belgium, two displays were set up: one featured decorations, medals, and rare gold coins from Belgium; the other was dedicated to the achievements of Brand Whitlock as Ambassador to Belgium during World War I.⁶⁸

The permanent displays in the coin hall were closed in July 1959 for dismantling in preparation for the installation of modernized exhibits: in the interim arrangements were made for setting up a series of temporary shows. Some of these, on view from July through September 1959 in the rotunda of the Arts and Industries Building, were topically dedicated to Washington, Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt; others featured United States paper currencies, medals of merit, and decorations.

While materials for regular exhibits were being prepared, the coin hall was used for several special exhibits. Louis Eliasberg of Baltimore, Maryland, lent his entire collection, including specially designed cases, for a display that was on view from May 1 through August 15, 1960. It was distinguished for its "completeness of the United States series, superb condition of the coins, and attractive presentation."⁶⁹ An exhibit illustrating the life and military exploits of Peter the Great was composed of a selection from the Willis H. du Pont gift of Russian coins and medals formerly owned by the Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich of Russia.⁷⁰ A selection of 250 masterpieces of ancient Greek coins, on loan from a famous private collection in Boston, was placed on public view in



Fig. 25.—HALF EAGLE, 1815.



Fig. 26.—HALF EAGLE, 1819.



Fig. 27.—HALF EAGLE, 1822.



Fig. 28.—HALF EAGLE, 1824.



Fig. 29.—HALF EAGLE, 1832.

December 1960; it included outstanding examples from the 7th to the 2nd centuries B.C.⁷¹

The completely renovated hall of monetary history and medallic art (fig. 132) was opened on March 18, 1961, with formal ceremonies attended by govern-

⁶⁷ *SI Report*, 1959, p. 41.

⁶⁸ *USNM Report*, 1959, p. 41.

⁶⁹ *USNM Report*, 1960, p. 26; *SI Report*, 1960, p. 43.

⁷⁰ *USNM Report*, 1960, p. 27; *SI Report*, 1960, p. 43.

⁷¹ *USNM Report*, 1961, pp. 31-32.



Fig. 30.—SILVER DOLLAR, 1804, “class I” variety struck in 1834–1835.



Fig. 31.—SILVER DOLLAR, 1804, unique “class II” variety, with plain edge, struck in 1858–1859 over Swiss 5-franc shooting piece.

mental dignitaries and distinguished numismatists.⁷² Both in concept and design the newly renovated hall was in bold contrast to the old (fig. 131). Bright, internally lighted cases replaced the massive wooden ones which had been dependent on daylight or ceiling fixtures for illumination. Attractive display panels were either decorated and illustrated with background art work and labels done by silk screening or covered with linen fabric. The main display in the new hall was dedicated to monetary history—from primitive barter to modern monetary systems—and traced the development of money as an integral aspect of society. Displays of coins, tokens, and paper currencies were arranged in their historical and cultural context, rather than by conventional classifications. Special

⁷² *USNM Report*, 1961, pp. 29–33, ill.; *SI Report*, 1961, p. 13; see also, “Smithsonian Institution Numismatic Display, Extension of Remarks of Hon. A. Willis Robertson of Virginia in the Senate of the United States,” *Congressional Record* (Monday March 20, 1961), A1887–8; V. CLAIN-STEFANELLI, “Hall of Monetary History and Medallion Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.,” *Museum* (1962), vol. 15, no. 3, ill., with French, Spanish, and Russian abstracts, pp. 191–196, also pp. XXVII, XXXII; “Monetary History and Medallion Art at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.,” *Numisma* (Madrid, 1965), vol. 15, no. 75, pp. 31–48.

emphasis was given to the various forms of currencies of North America and their role in the economic and political growth of the United States.

The first half of the display showed significant phases in the evolution of money economy in the Western world (fig. 133): early economies; the first coins; the Hellenic world; ancient Rome; the Byzantine Empire; the penny (fig. 134); the revival of gold; groats and testons; the dollar; the New World: barter on the frontier; Colonial money, 1607–1764; spirit of independence, 1764–1787; building a nation; the United States Mint; economic adjustments, 1812–1860; United States coin designs; war and reconstruction, 1860–1873; rise of modern America, 1873–1900 (fig. 135); and the 20th century. Special topical displays completed the basic monetary history exhibit, and among the themes illustrated were the origin of coin names, the Reformation (fig. 136), Confederate currencies, and state bank notes. Also on display was a reconstruction of a coin stamper designed by Leonardo da Vinci (fig. 137) which emphasized the introduction of mechanization in coining techniques. This machine was reconstructed for the Smithsonian Institution by the International Business Machines Corporation. Prominently displayed in the renovated hall were the United States Mint collection and the noted Straub collection of coins, which together include the world’s largest display of gold coins, and a group of oversized multiple talers of the Brunswick duchies. Also featured were the Japanese gold and silver coins from the President Grant collection.



Fig. 32.—HISTORICAL 1838 PROOF half dollar struck at the New Orleans Mint. The first 50-cent piece issued by a branch mint.

Displayed in two table cases were selections from the Willis H. du Pont donation of Russian coins illustrating coins issued by the Tsars Peter the Great, Peter II, and Anna as well as the political aims of Peter the Great evidenced on medals.

In 1962 a specially designed semiautomatic case was installed on an experimental basis. Its 40 mobile trays were suspended between continuous chain devices (fig. 138). By pushing electrical contacts, the visitor could rotate the trays and examine at close range each of the several hundred coins which were displayed in this case.⁷³

All labels and background art work in these exhibits, instead of being typewritten or hand painted as previously, were silk-screened. The results were excellent even for the smallest specimen labels.



Fig. 33.—THE UNIQUE 1849 DOUBLE EAGLE, pattern for the 20-dollar gold pieces first minted in 1850.



Fig. 34.—UNIQUE PROOF DOUBLE EAGLE, 1854, San Francisco Mint.

The display cases were provided with cold-cathode internal lighting. The light boxes were equipped with specially designed lenses of Lucite (methacrylate) for maximum light distribution. These lenses also serve as filters for some of the more damaging radiations, their filter properties for ultraviolet being optimal at a wavelength of 350 millimicrons. The specially designed cases are equipped with self-locking folding braces and 1/4-inch polished safety plate glass.

⁷³ USNM Report, 1962, p. 28.



Fig. 35.—PROOF-FINISH HALF DOLLAR, 1855, first specimen struck at San Francisco Mint.

Mounting coins for display has always presented a challenge. Whenever possible, they were mounted first in tightly closed individual boxes made of cellulose triacetate K IV. These are attached to the display panel with small pieces of "Velcro," which consists of a strip of nylon hooks which adheres to another strip of nylon loops. When pressed together the hooks and loops engage, creating a secure and easily adjustable fastener. This method permits easy removal and replacement of display objects. In addition, by this mounting method the coins are raised against the background which accentuates them and produces a very attractive overall effect. Where the size or shape of a specimen precludes the use of boxes, the item is often secured in place with a special paraffin wax.

The windows of the display room in the Arts and Industries Building were covered with filters which allowed only 8 percent light transmission, thus reducing the danger of harmful radiations and maintaining a low general light level in the exhibit area. Disturbing glare and mirror effects were also reduced, and the individual internal lighting of the cases was enhanced. This total lighting arrangement brought



Fig. 36.—PROOF-FINISH SILVER DOLLAR, 1879, specially struck on the occasion of the February 20 reopening of the New Orleans Mint.

out details of coin design more effectively than high-level room lighting. The same principle applies to the current numismatic display in the Museum of History and Technology, where external natural light is no longer a problem.

With the assistance of the Medallic Art Company and the United States Mint, a display of contemporary United States medals was prepared in November 1963 in the Hall of Monetary History and Medallic Art.⁷⁴ A unit illustrating the traveler's cheque and its history was set up in February 1964, using materials made available by the American Express Company, the Bank of New Zealand, and Kenneth L. Kelly.⁷⁵ An exhibit featuring original mint models and designs for the Kennedy half dollar was opened in March 1964 through the courtesy of the director of the Mint.⁷⁶

In April 1964 a large display was installed using material received from the Mortimer and Anna Neinken collection. It illustrates the evolution of paper money in Austria from the 18th century to the newest monetary reforms of the 20th century.⁷⁷ Two new exhibits, the "Origin of Coin Names" and State



Fig. 37.—UNIQUE PATTERN HALF DOLLAR, 1838. Draped bust of Liberty probably designed by William Kneass.

Bank issues in the United States, were set up in January 1964 in the numismatic hall.

All the numismatic displays in the Arts and Industries Building were moved to the new Museum of History and Technology where the hall of numismatics was opened on October 23, 1964. While the new layout differs in many respects from the previous



Fig. 38.—PATTERN FLYING EAGLE CENT, 1854, in copper. One of three known surviving pieces.

one, the general character of the exhibit remains the same (fig. 139).

From November 1964 through January 1965 a special exhibit on "Israel's Ancient History Through Its Coins" featured the internationally famous collection of ancient coins of Judaea collected by Mr. Adolph Reifenberg, author of the standard reference book of ancient Jewish coins.⁷⁸ "Miniature Masterpieces of Ancient Greek Coin Engraving" was the title of another special display (October 1964–March 1965) consisting of select pieces from the Dr. Leo Mildenberg collection, Zurich, Switzerland. Maps, photographs of individual coins, and background material were used extensively in these exhibits.



Fig. 39.—UNIQUE GOLD PATTERN DOUBLE EAGLE, 1860. Reverse designed by Anthony C. Paquet.

Another temporary display, arranged through the courtesy of the Buenos Aires Mint of Argentina (Spring 1965), illustrated coins and paper currencies of this Latin American country, as well as many original models for 19th-century coins of Argentina.⁷⁹

⁷⁴ *USNM Report*, 1964, p. 29; *SI Report*, 1964, p. 63.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

⁷⁶ *USNM Report*, 1964, p. 29; 1964, p. 137; *SI Report*, 1964, p. 63; 1965, p. 137.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

⁷⁸ *USNM Report*, 1965, p. 137.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*



Fig. 40.—GOLD PATTERN HALF EAGLE, eagle, and double eagle, 1865. Only two of each are known to exist. Use of motto “In God We Trust” officially adopted in 1866 on United States coins.

In 1964 a geometric lathe, used in tracing the intricate rosette-like designs used on currencies and documents of value, was received from the Security-Columbian Banknote Company, Philadelphia. A new permanent feature in the hall was arranged in the fall of 1964 with a selection of contemporary artistic medals from Europe, featuring prominent artists of France, Germany, Italy, and Greece.⁸⁰

On the occasion of the James Smithson Bicentennial celebration, September 1965, a special display was set up featuring Smithsonian Institution award medals. This included original models as well as bronze strikings of the new Hodgkins medal designed by Albino Manca from New York, and the Smithsonian award medal by Paul Vincze from London.

“Our New Coinage” was the title of a display arranged in September 1965, in cooperation with the United States Mint, showing two sets of experimental strikings of “clad” material prepared in 1965 at the Mint for the President’s approval. Over 400 United States and foreign gold coins and medals from the Frederick A. Hauck donation were selected for an exhibit arranged in December 1965 in another new semi-automatic case with rotating trays. Electronic devices prevent unauthorized access to the material on exhibit.

Fig. 41.—FIFTY DOLLAR GOLD PATTERN, 1877, reflecting California’s interest in the issuance of gold coins in denominations up to \$100.



Outside Participation

Over the years, numismatic displays have been made available by the Smithsonian Institution to various national and international expositions and local exhibits. Among these were:

Centennial Exposition at Marietta, Ohio, July 16–21, 1888. A group of 78 United States medals.⁸¹

Columbian Historical Exposition at Madrid, Spain, summer and fall 1892. A series of American Colonial coins—medals illustrating the Colonial period and the

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ *USNM Report*, 1889, gives on pp. 182–183 an itemized listing of these medals. Cf. also *SI Report*, 1889, p. 53.

Revolutionary War, and medals commemorative of political and civic events—together with a large series of paper money extending from the early days of the American Colonies down to the national currency issues.⁸²

World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, 1893. Nearly 600 medals illustrative of American history from the earliest Colonial days through the Revolutionary War to contemporary events and including medals in memory of eminent Americans. Also a collection of "metallic money of the colonies prior to the establishment of the United States Mint," a collection of American Colonial and Continental paper money, state and private bank notes, and scrip issued by merchants.⁸³

Cotton States and International Exposition at Atlanta, Georgia, 1895. Principal coins circulating in the North American Colonies from 1525 to the establishment of the United States Mint in 1793; medals commemorative of the Revolutionary War; and coins mentioned in the Bible.⁸⁴

Tennessee Centennial Exposition at Nashville, Tennessee, 1897. Principal coins in use since 1652 in the

North American Colonies and in the United States up to contemporary issues, including wampum, private gold coins from Georgia, North Carolina, and California; medals commemorative of events in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812; medallic portraits of the Presidents of the United States.⁸⁵

Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition at Seattle, Washington, 1909. An exhibit on the medallic history of the United States.⁸⁶

Sesquicentennial Exposition at Philadelphia, 1926. A series of medals.⁸⁷

Washington Cathedral spring festival at Washington, D.C., May 10–12, 1945. A special exhibit on the evolution of Christian symbols on coins, consisting of 50 photographic prints showing coins arranged in chronological sequence from Constantine the Great to 1800.⁸⁸

Theodore Roosevelt Centennial Exhibition at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., May 1958. Commemorative medals and plaques.⁸⁹



Fig. 42.—COPPER TRIAL PIECE for "metric" double eagle, 1879, reflecting attempt in Congress to adopt the metric system.



Fig. 43.—UNIQUE PATTERN 5-CENT PIECE, 1881, bearing motto "In God We Trust."



Fig. 44.—PATTERN HALF DOLLAR, 1891, obverse showing Columbia standing. Designed by Charles E. Barber.

Ibero-American Numismatic Exhibition at Barcelona, Spain, November 24–December 7, 1958.⁹⁰ United States commemorative gold and silver coins illustrating the historical development of the country; a complete series of official medals portraying the presidents of the United States; a large number of

⁸² *USNM Report*, 1892, p. 115. Cf. also, *SI Report*, 1893, p. 21.

⁸³ *USNM Report*, 1893, p. 121.

⁸⁴ *SI Report*, 1895, p. 632; also described in CYRUS ADLER and I. M. CASANOWICZ, "Biblical Antiquities. A Description of the Exhibit at the Cotton States International Exposition, Atlanta, 1895," in *USNM Report*, 1896, pp. 943–1023 + 46 pls.; pp. 982–988 are dedicated to "A Selection of the Coins of Bible Lands."

⁸⁵ *SI Report*, 1898, p. 99; *USNM Report*, 1897, p. 73; *Report on the United States Government Exhibit at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, Nashville, 1897*, Washington, 1901, pp. 119f.

⁸⁶ *SI Report*, 1909, pp. 81–83; and *USNM Report*, 1909, p. 57.

⁸⁷ *SI Report*, 1926, p. 48.

⁸⁸ *USNM Report*, 1945, p. 77.

⁸⁹ "The Theodore Roosevelt Centennial Exhibit," *The Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* (May 1958), vol. 15, no. 3, pp. 106–164, especially p. 129, no. 94; pp. 130f., no. 100; p. 135, no. 121.

⁹⁰ *USNM Report*, 1959, p. 41.

medals, plaquettes, and original models dating from 1889 to 1920 designed by the noted American medallist Victor David Brenner, as well as a selection of medals illustrating twenty years of modern medallic art in the United States.

National Numismatic Convention at Boston, August 24–27, 1960.⁹¹ Die-sinking techniques at the United States Mint during the early 19th century; United

States patterns; and Peter the Great's life and military exploits as illustrated on 18th-century medals.

Lincoln Museum at Washington, D.C., spring 1961. The history of the Medal of Honor.

Hancock County Centennial Exhibition at Weirton, West Virginia, March 1963, on the occasion of the West Virginia Centennial Celebration. Coins, paper money, and tokens used in West Virginia in 1863.

CARE OF THE COLLECTIONS

Equally as important for museum purposes as the acquisition and exhibition of numismatic specimens is the care and maintenance of these specimens, which includes not only their proper handling and conservation, but frequently also involved and difficult problems of restoration and technical examination and analysis.

Little is known about the care of coins and medals in the early years of the national collections except that no guiding policies are apparent and the practice was largely a matter of the attitude of the individual to whose care the specimens happened to be entrusted. The earliest evidence of any systematic approach to the problem appears in the work of Theodore T. Belote in preparing a reorganization of the exhibits in 1914. At that time he saw to the cleaning of every coin and medal to be displayed, but even of this no details are given as to the methods he employed. We do know, however, that the storage of the reference collections posed serious problems for him, and Belote decided to arrange them in alphabetical order according to the donors and lenders. He dedicated a considerable amount of time to this task which was completed in 1916.⁹²



Fig. 45.—UNIQUE PATTERN IN GOLD of double eagle, 1906. Designed by Charles E. Barber.

⁹¹ *USNM Report*, 1961, p. 32.

⁹² *USNM Report*, 1915 p. 33; 1916, p. 26.

Over the next two decades the lack of a numismatist and a trained staff, an ever-increasing workload, and general neglect of the hall led to continuing deterioration of the coins and medals on display as well as in the reference collections. There is a report that mentions the cleaning of the silver coins in 1937,⁹³ but the situation became so intolerable by 1948 that the American Numismatic Association appointed a committee to consult with Museum officials on the proper preservation and display of the national coin collection.⁹⁴



Fig. 46.—EXPERIMENTAL DOUBLE EAGLE, 1907, by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, struck on 10-dollar size planchet. The only two surviving specimens are in the Smithsonian.

The committee met in July at the Museum and there achieved full cooperation and a complete agreement on remedies. Dr. William Blum, of the Electrodeposition Section of the National Bureau of Standards, and his assistants conducted research to find the easiest and safest methods for removing dirt and tarnish from the surface of silver coins and the best method for protecting all the numismatic items.⁹⁵

⁹³ *USNM Report*, 1938, p. 74.

⁹⁴ Considerable material concerning the committee and results of its activity has been consolidated in a file entitled "William Guild and Stuart Mosher" and consists of the old United States National Museum file numbers 175 877, 176 221, 182 106. The file consists of correspondence and memoranda from May 14, 1947, through January 28, 1949.

⁹⁵ *USNM Report*, 1948, p. 79.



Fig. 47.—FIVE-CENT PATTERNS, 1909, some with portrait of Washington.

Because of the lack of trained personnel the entire collection was cataloged only superficially. During the years 1923–1948, however, Belote and James R. Sirlouis, a scientific aide, prepared a detailed listing of the United States coins transferred to the Museum from the United States Mint.⁹⁶ In 1944 the numismatic reference collections were installed in two rooms at the north end of the Arts and Industries Building.⁹⁷ A vault provided with an electrical alarm system was prepared for the storage of the collections two years later.⁹⁸ Each of these measures marked a slow but steady progress toward the establishment of the national numismatic collections as a clearly defined unit under its own curator.⁹⁹

their accession and catalogue numbers, or even their subject classification.¹⁰⁰

An extraordinary effort was made in 1949 in cleaning the 4,200 silver coins on exhibit. Upon Dr. Blum's advice a 5 percent solution of sodium cyanide was used to remove the tarnish, after which the coins were carefully washed and dried. A group of 100 coins was then lacquered experimentally with Krylon,¹⁰¹ and this method of protection against tarnish was adopted for the entire collection. Unfortunately, however, unskilled technical assistants often used the lacquer to excess with detrimental results to the appearance of some of the specimens.¹⁰²



Fig. 48.—PATTERN HALF DOLLAR, 1916. Designed by A. A. Weinman.

The grouping of specimens in the reference collections according to accessions—a practice formerly in general use in the Division of Numismatics—was abandoned in 1956, and all specimens were arranged by subjects. State bank notes, for example, were grouped by states, banks, denominations, types, and then by dates. This kind of rearrangement of the collections was particularly time-consuming because many of the specimens had no identification as to



Fig. 49.—TEN-DOLLAR GOLD PIECE issued by Templeton Reid in Lumpkin County, Georgia, 1830. A product of the first "gold rush" in the United States.

This method of spraying the coins and medals with Krylon was re-examined after 1956 and the results were not considered fully satisfactory. Frequently the lacquer would "build up" around fine details and give an unnatural, glossy, and unesthetic look, especially to bronze coins and medals. In addition, Krylon cannot be readily removed if aged,¹⁰³ and sometimes resists prolonged applications of thinners or solvents. Immersion in boiling water may be effective in removing old coats of lacquer, because of the

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ *USNM Report*, 1944, p. 70.

⁹⁸ *USNM Report*, 1946, p. 76.

⁹⁹ The *SI Report*, 1947, mentions at page VIII for the first time the "Section of Numismatics," Theodore T. Belote in charge.

¹⁰⁰ *USNM Report*, 1958, pp. 48f.

¹⁰¹ *USNM Report*, 1949, p. 77 and op. cit., 1952, pp. 51f.

¹⁰² *USNM Report*, 1956, p. 18.

¹⁰³ *USNM Report*, 1958, p. 49.

different coefficients of expansion of metal and lacquer. The use of low-pressure aerosol sprayers for the application of Krylon lacquer was therefore discontinued, and experiments were conducted spraying conveniently thinned lacquers with compressed air at about 40 psi.



Fig. 50.—UNIQUE 10-DOLLAR GOLD PIECE issued by Templeton Reid in California, 1849.

Through the cooperation of the Union Carbide Corporation, the opportunity was given the Division of Numismatics to test a new and promising method of protecting silver coins against corrosion. The product tested is a low-viscosity solution containing 7.5 percent silicone solids in a solvent system formulated primarily for spray application.¹⁰⁴ The results were satisfactory mainly for protecting bright, brilliant objects. Matt surfaces, especially of bronze medals and coins, should not be coated using this or any other product currently available because of the resulting "wet" appearance. The coating obtained was absolutely clear and no more than approximately 0.05 mils thick. The protective film may be readily removed with acetone, butyl Cellosolve, methylene chloride, or other similar solvents.



Fig. 51.—UNIQUE GOLD INGOT for 9.43 dollars issued by Moffat & Co. in San Francisco.

Potassium cyanide is frequently used for removing tarnish from silver coins, but it is dangerous and not recommended. A method used to clean daguerreotypes was tried on coins and found to be satisfactory. This cleaning solution consists of Thiourea (70 grams), phosphoric acid (85 percent, 80 cc),

¹⁰⁴ USNM Report, 1962, p. 56.

non-ionic wetting agent (Photoflo, 2 cc), and distilled water (enough to make 1 liter). After cleaning, the coins must be carefully rinsed in running water, followed by a mild soap solution, then rinsed again and finally washed in distilled water.¹⁰⁵

The ion-exchange process has been used on a large number of communion tokens made of lead that were encrusted with carbonate. "Rexyn RG 50 (H)" of the Fisher Scientific Company was first used experimentally by the Division of Numismatics in 1960. After treatment the tokens were given a protective coating of wax.



Fig. 52.—FIVE- AND 10-DOLLAR PIECES issued by the Cincinnati Mining and Trading Co., 1849.

Ultrasonic cleaning was used successfully to clean several steel punches. It was found that any loose material was slowly knocked away by cavitation until only the base metal remained. Caution must be exercised, however, against indiscriminate use of this method for cleaning coins and medals made of bronze or other such metals for it could damage the objects.

An electrolytic apparatus was installed in 1958 for cleaning tarnished and corroded coins. In the electrolytic cleaning process, by the action of the electric current, the corrosion process is reversed and the metal is redeposited while the intruding ions are displaced into the bath.

¹⁰⁵ CHARLES VAN RAVENSWAAY, "An Improved Method for the Restoration of Daguerreotypes," *Image* (1956), vol. 5, no. 7, p. 158. This method had been developed at the Missouri Historical Society and was adopted at the George Eastman House where we learned about its practical application.

For storing paper currencies rigid controls were introduced in the use of various holders commercially available. Unfortunately, it was found that some of the acetate and di-acetate films used for their manufacture were not sufficiently stable and were harmful to paper. Invaluable help in this preservation project was received from Dr. H. A. Pace of the Research Division of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio, and from the Film Department of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington, Delaware.

Through the cooperation of Dr. Pace it was also possible to conduct fade-ometer tests of currency samples partially covered with quarter-inch Plexiglas

filters and aluminum-foil masks. An exposure of 132 hours was used, and dyes were considered fadeproof if no perceptible change occurred after 100 hours of exposure. The tests proved that, in addition to light filters, controlled ambient conditions are necessary to assure maximum protection for paper currencies on display. It appears that success has been achieved in protecting paper documents of value and ribbons of decorations from the harmful effects of light and other ambient conditions by eliminating sulphur dioxide from the atmosphere,¹⁰⁶ and through impregnation with phenantrenone.¹⁰⁷

TECHNICAL EXAMINATION OF MATERIALS (NONDESTRUCTIVE ANALYSIS)

The Smithsonian is frequently faced with the problem of determining the specific composition of coins and medals. One of many methods used in this research is electro-spectrographic analysis, but electric sparks may damage the surface of a coin. X-ray spectrography, however, is harmless to the specimen. This method permits examination of the coin, giving the composition of a thin surface layer only. It has the advantage that it can be done in 10 to 20 minutes with an accuracy of a few tenths of a percent.¹⁰⁸

The method is of distinct practical use. A half eagle struck in 1849 at San Francisco by Norris, Grieg, and Norris had been condemned by several experts as a counterfeit because of its unusual "rippled" surface. When submitted to the Division for examination, certain details were noticed which indicated that the coin was authentic and that a more thorough investigation was warranted. Through the cooperation of the RCA laboratories the composition of this piece was tested and compared with that of other similar coins preserved in the United States Mint collection since 1850. The results obtained with fluorescent

analysis equipment showed that in addition to gold, both silver and tin were present in considerable quantities in all specimens tested, and there were traces of iron as well. The presence of tin in all specimens tested was, of course, diagnostic and proved that all pieces examined were minted from an alloy of identical origin.



Fig. 53.—FIVE-DOLLAR GOLD PIECE issued by the Massachusetts and California Co., 1849.

Once the special composition of the alloy becomes widely known, counterfeiters may, of course, take advantage of this knowledge, and other non-destructive tests may have to be devised from time to time. Arrangements are being made, for example, for

¹⁰⁶ HANS KOTTE, "The Durability of Paper," *Allgemeine Papier-Rundschau* (1956), no. 12, pp. 577-579.

¹⁰⁷ John O. Hawthorne and Myron H. Wilt, Method of protecting material against the effects of light. U.S. Patent 2,905,570, Sept. 22, 1959.

¹⁰⁸ Dr. Bernard DeWitt of Columbia-Southern Corporation, Barberton, Ohio, analyzed on September 15, 1958, a British sovereign dated 1957 and a Newfoundland 2-dollar gold piece

dated 1881 by using the smooth surface of a United States eagle of 1897 as a presumed standard of 90% gold and 10% copper. The X-ray analysis was made with a Phillips electronics X-ray spectrograph. The sovereign was shown to contain 91.3% gold and 8.7% copper, while the 2-dollar piece was shown to contain 91.7% gold and 8.3% copper. All specimens were made available for testing by Dr. Kenneth C. Eberly, of Akron, Ohio.

neutron-activation tests. These involve the irradiation of coins to be analyzed in a neutron pile. The gamma-radiation resulting from the neutron bombardment is characteristic in wavelength and half-life according to the content of the specimen. The radiation must be sorted out and measured carefully in order to ascertain the composition of the object.

Experiments were conducted in February 1960 concerning the application of the principle of X-ray diffraction as a nondestructive means for determining techniques used in the manufacture of coins and



Fig. 54.—TEN-DOLLAR GOLD PIECE issued about 1849 by J. S. Orsmby & Co. in Sacramento, California.

medals. Deceptive centrifugal casts may be readily ascertained and eliminated through this method. This was demonstrated in tests conducted in cooperation with the United States Secret Service and the Bureau of Standards. X-ray-back-reflection patterns of two United States 1-dollar gold pieces showed definite differences as can be seen from the juxtaposed photographs (fig. 140). The rings on the right are much narrower and less spotty than those on the left. They correspond to a struck, genuine piece on the right and a cast, counterfeit one on the left.¹⁰⁹ These experiments are based on the fact that the structure in this type cast metal is crystalline with extremely small crystallites due to the rapid cooling, while the processes in the manufacture of a struck piece induce distortions in the crystalline lattice. These differences of the structure of the metal result in different X-ray-back-reflection patterns.

In 1964 tests were conducted by the Division of Numismatics in cooperation with the Bureau of Standards to determine metallurgical details in connection with a platinum 50-cent piece dated 1814, a Russian 3-ruble piece, and two 5-dollar gold pieces issued in 1849 by the Massachusetts and California Gold Company. X-ray radiographic and diffraction techniques were used, and the experiments were

¹⁰⁹ *USNM Report*, 1960, p. 49.



Fig. 55.—FIVE- AND 10-DOLLAR GOLD PIECES issued in 1849 by the Pacific Co. in San Francisco.

continued in the spectrochemical analysis section of the Bureau of Standards.¹¹⁰

Through the cooperation of the Naval Research Laboratory, it was possible to conduct comparative analyses of an ancient silver quarter shekel, struck during the first year (A.D. 66/67) of the Jewish war against the Romans, and of a silver shekel struck during the third year of the same war. The composition of the quarter shekel was found to be silver, with 2 to 3 percent copper and approximately 1 percent arsenic, according to X-ray fluorescence analysis.



Fig. 56.—TEN-DOLLAR GOLD PIECE issued in 1861 by J. J. Conway and Co., Colorado.

The shekel was made instead of practically pure silver, with only 1 percent copper and no other elements were present. The interpretation of the X-ray diffraction patterns allows some conclusions concerning the manufacture of the pieces, the quarter shekel was apparently worked cold, while the shekel planchet was subject to a long annealing process with very little, if any, cold work.¹¹¹ Such analyses are im-

¹¹⁰ *USNM Report*, 1964, p. 66.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 66-67.

portant for a better knowledge of ancient metallurgical and striking techniques, and they are being continued and expanded in our research laboratory.¹¹²

A systematic study was started in 1965 in cooperation with Mr. Maurice Salmon of the Smithsonian's Conservation Research Laboratory on the use of X-ray diffraction methods in the identification of various kinds of metal working. Thus it was possible to distinguish between nickel coins struck on planchets cut from rolled metal and coins struck on planchets produced through powder metallurgy.

NEW HORIZONS

The future development of the national numismatic collections will continue along lines stemming from a fundamental recognition that our foremost duty is the search into the history of all forms of money, attempting to explain their origin, their evolution, their extrinsic appearance as well as their intrinsic qualities, their relations to economics, to social and cultural history, as well as to the history of art. Parallel with this is the search into the various aspects and developments of medallic art.



Fig. 57.—PATTERN SILVER RUBLE of Tsar Alexander I of Russia, 1807.

We expect numismatics truly to broaden its scope more and more from a science which virtually restricted itself to metallic forms of currency or coins to a science concerned with the meaning and background of all forms of money, including primitive media of exchange, money substitutes, and documents of value.

A continuous reappraisal of the scope of numismatics will be essential. In order to be able to design

¹¹² V. CLAIN-STEFANELLI, "An Application of Physics in Ancient Numismatics," *American Journal of Archaeology* (1966), vol. 70, no. 2, p. 185.

In another instance two ancient Greek silver staters from Aegina, supposedly struck in the 6th century B.C., were examined and proved to be modern counterfeits. Subjected to X-ray-diffraction examination one coin showed a general uniformity of metal structure which led to the conclusion that it was cast. It was even possible to ascertain that the metal was chilled rapidly, being cast in a rather cold mold. The X-ray-diffraction patterns obtained from the second coin also indicated casting, but using an unevenly heated mold, which let one side of the coin cool more slowly than the other.

and project plans for the future we should consider, for instance, that at this time, in 1966, the amount of metallic currency in circulation in the United States does not exceed 3½ billion dollars compared with 41 billion dollars in paper currency. These amounts are, in turn, dwarfed by the sums of money transferred in 1965 by the intermediary of checks. The Federal Reserve banks alone handled in that year 492 million Government checks for nearly 135 billion dollars. They also handled 4 billion 601 million other checks amounting to about 1 trillion 631 billion dollars. A multiple of this amount was transferred during the same period by other banks. This gives us a better perspective of the relatively limited role of hard currency in modern money transactions. The ever increasing use of checking accounts will lead to



Fig. 58.—HALF-OUNCE AND 2-OUNCE GOLD TOKENS issued in 1853 by the "Kangaroo Office" in Victoria, Australia. Only two other specimens are known to exist.

automation in banking, a necessary development in our modern credit-based economy. It is our mission to follow these developments and to preserve historical records typifying this evolution while it is in progress and while documentary material is relatively easy to obtain. What might be obvious to us today should be documented for the enlightenment of future generations.



Fig. 59.—ONZA STRUCK in 1836 at the La Rioja Mint in Argentina.

The continuous, it should be repeated, reappraisal of the scope of numismatics and the recognition of its ever developing duties should not be swayed by traditional concepts like the prevailing metallistic approach. Also, in our quest for history there is little if any place for the curious, the unusual as such. Emphasis must be placed instead on the historically significant aspects.

We expect that the growth rate of the collections will remain high, at least for some years, in contrast with the slow rate of growth of up to ten years ago. For comparative purposes we will mention the United States Mint collection which increased in 85 years—from 1838 to 1923—to around 18,000 specimens, or by a yearly average of 212 items. The United States National Museum collection showed an increase of 595 pieces each year during the period from 1881 to 1923. The national numismatic collections continued to grow from 1924 through 1956 at a yearly average of 531 items. In fact, during the latter period 17,000 items were added to the collections. In the past ten years instead the average yearly rate of growth increased to approximately 20,000 objects, the number of items added varying, of course, greatly from year to year.

It will be necessary to assemble and preserve the pertinent documentation that will enable us to study and better comprehend the development of money and of media of payment in their broad historic and economic context. True comprehension of these phenomena is possible only based on primary “numismatic” source material. Modern instances of regression to more “primitive” forms of monetary exchanges in times of need or economical stress provide case studies of enormous practical meaning. Thus it will be necessary to assemble documentary material to foster the study of monetary history in all its complexities. This difficult task might be aided



Fig. 60.—SET OF GOLD 2-, 5-, 10-, and 20-peso Peruvian coins struck at Philadelphia in 1855 for the Lima Mint as samples from American minting machinery purchased by Peru.



Fig. 61.—SAN FRANCISCO Committee of Vigilance gold medal, 1856.

by the establishment of an American Institute of Numismatics.

Considering the ever broadening scope of the collections and the activities of the Division of Numismatics, it will be necessary to give recognition to the various areas of knowledge by establishing specialized sections. It also will be necessary to consider the introduction of new methods of electronic data processing and information retrieval.

The exhibits will be expanded within the near future to include displays illustrating a history of banking and other historical topics. To show particularly extensive and space consuming displays like paper currencies and documents of value as well as large series of coins, it will be necessary to expand the use of semi-automatic multiple tray exhibit cases. It appears desirable to develop special exhibit units featuring electronic selector devices in combination with storage units containing several display panels from which the visitor may select the one of particular interest to him. This should further increase visitor participation.

Research into the application of scientific methods of investigation, particularly physics, to numismatics will be intensified and developed even further. The application of optical interferometry in surface examination is an example of recent work done in this field in our Division. Perfecting methods of trace analysis and mass-spectrography may be used in metal dating; isotope ratios may give indications for the provenience of metals used in coinage. These examples are mentioned to show some of the new horizons in this area of research which we plan to pursue with the cooperation of the National Museum's Research Laboratory.

Last but not least, we believe that metal analysis should become a prerequisite and a routine require-

ment in descriptive works. Indeed, the correct composition of metallic objects must be established for cataloging purposes. It is not sufficient to give a description and to indicate with varying degrees of accuracy the relative position of die axes, or to record



Fig. 62.—BRONZE CASTING from first study for Franklin medal made by A. Saint-Gaudens in 1906.

the individual weights; as we must proceed further in many series to comparative die studies, we also must consider of equal significance a better and exact knowledge of the composition of the matter studied.

In summary, the advancement of the Division of Numismatics must be linked to the following basic quests: The development of authoritative collections, the arrangement of educationally meaningful exhibits, and the training of specialists, thus fulfilling the mission of a modern museum.

All these activities will be given true significance and a measure of permanent value only through an adequate and parallel publication program. New horizons dawned in this field with the series of publications released since 1965. Further activities along similar lines will help us expand all our programs and will help give the numismatic activities at the Smithsonian Institution the recognition they deserve.



Fig. 63.—PLAQUETTE of Collis P. Huntington by Victor D. Brenner.



Fig. 64.—CAST-BRONZE PLAQUETTE of President Theodore Roosevelt by Victor D. Brenner, 1908.

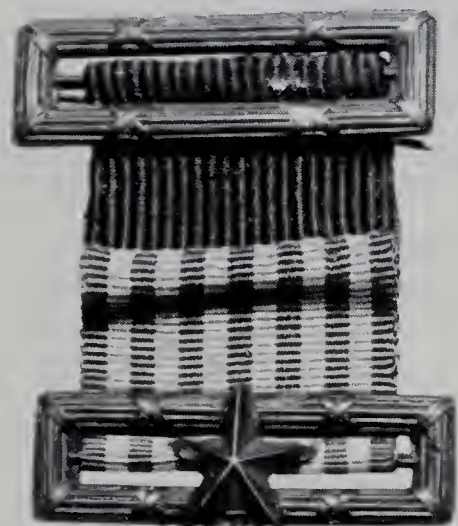


Fig. 65.—UNIQUE STRIKING in silver of Navy Medal of Honor. Designed by Anthony C. Paquet.

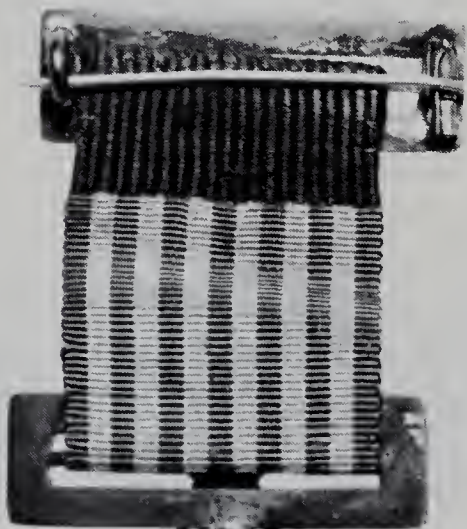


Fig. 66.—BADGE of the Society of the Cincinnati. This specimen can be traced back to 1862.

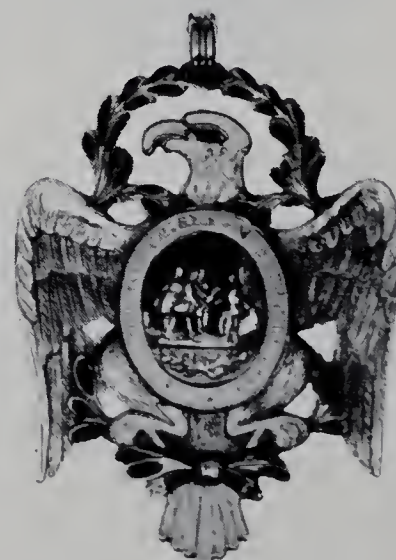




Fig. 67.—STEEL PLATE for the printing of Confederate 50-dollar and 100-dollar notes, 1861. Three quarters actual size.

Fig. 69.—STUART MOSHER (1904–1956), acting curator of the Division of Numismatics, 1948–1956.



Fig. 68.—MORITZ WORMSER (1878–1940) medal.

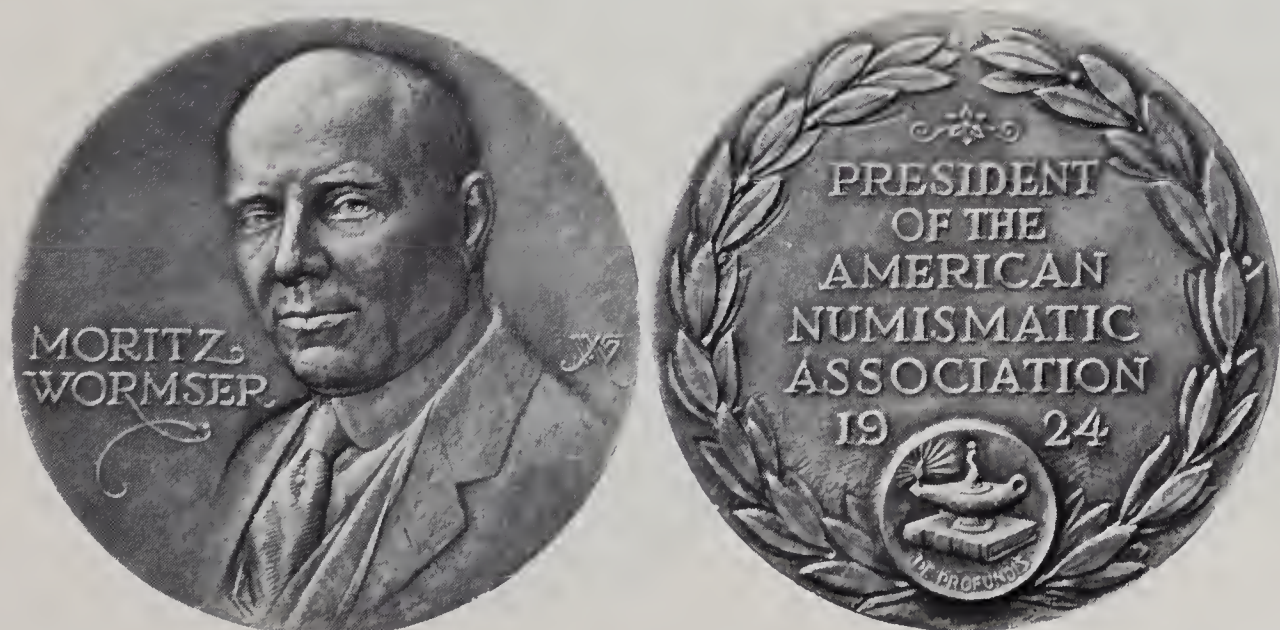




Fig. 70.—PAUL A. STRAUB (1865–1958).



Fig. 71.—GOLD 50-ZECCHINI PIECE struck in the name of the Doge of Venice, Paolo Renier (1779–1789). Obverse.

Fig. 74.—MEDALLIC SILVER PIECE struck in the name of Johann Friedrich of Brunswick, New Lüneburg, 1677.



Fig. 73.—GOLD 3-RUBLE PIECE of Tsar Alexander III of Russia, 1882. One of six pieces struck.

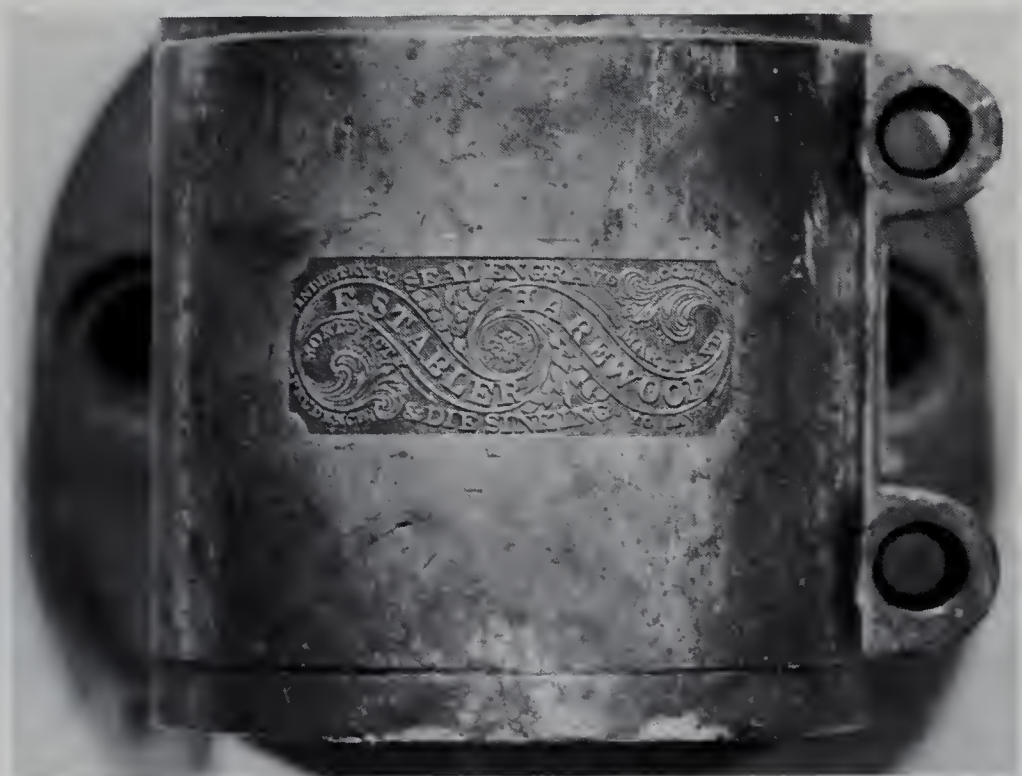


Fig. 77.—GUIDE FOR PRESS SHAFT with name plate of E. Stabler, Harewood, Maryland.



Fig. 71.—Reverse.



Fig. 72.—GOLD 25-DUCAT PIECE struck in the name of Michael Apafi of Transylvania, 1681.

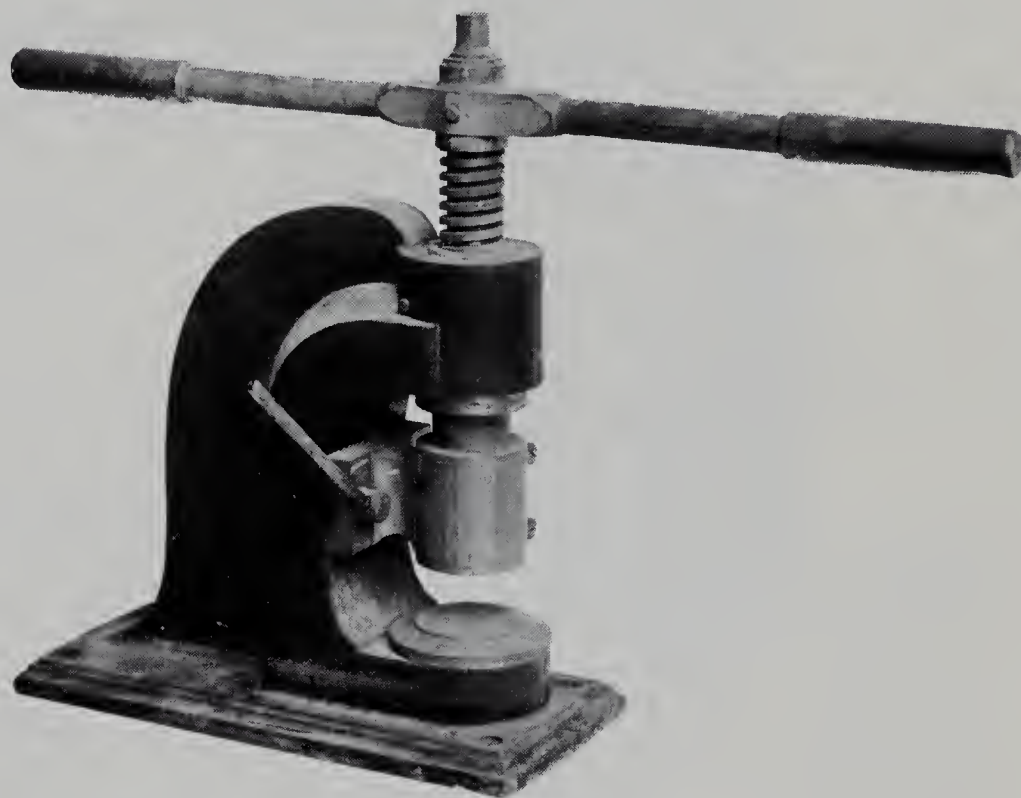


Fig. 76.—EDWARD STABLER'S seal press.

Fig. 75.—ADMIRAL VERNON MEDAL in brass, commemorating his capture of Porto Bello on November 22, 1739.



Fig. 79.—DESIGN FOR A SILVER DOLLAR by C. Gobrecht after Thomas Sully's "Seated Liberty," drawn on mica to facilitate transfer to a brass study die.



Fig. 78.—DIE TRIAL IN LEAD of Christian Gobrecht's Liberty bust for half dollar, 1836.





Fig. 80.—CAST BRONZE MODEL by C. Gobrecht, after a design by Franklin Peale.



Fig. 81.—MECHANICAL REDUCTION from cast bronze model to actual size used on pattern half dollar, 1838.



Fig. 82.—BRONZE TRIAL from hub.



Fig. 83.—INK DRAWING by C. Gobrecht used, with slight variations, on the reverse of the pattern half dollar, 1838. It follows closely an original sketch by Franklin Peale.

Fig. 84.—PENCIL DRAWING by George T. Morgan for a proposed 100-dollar gold piece, 1876.





Fig. 85.—ORIGINAL DIES made by Robert Lovett in Philadelphia for the striking of Confederate cent, 1861.



Fig. 86.—EXPERIMENTAL DOUBLE EAGLE, 1907, originally owned by President Theodore Roosevelt.

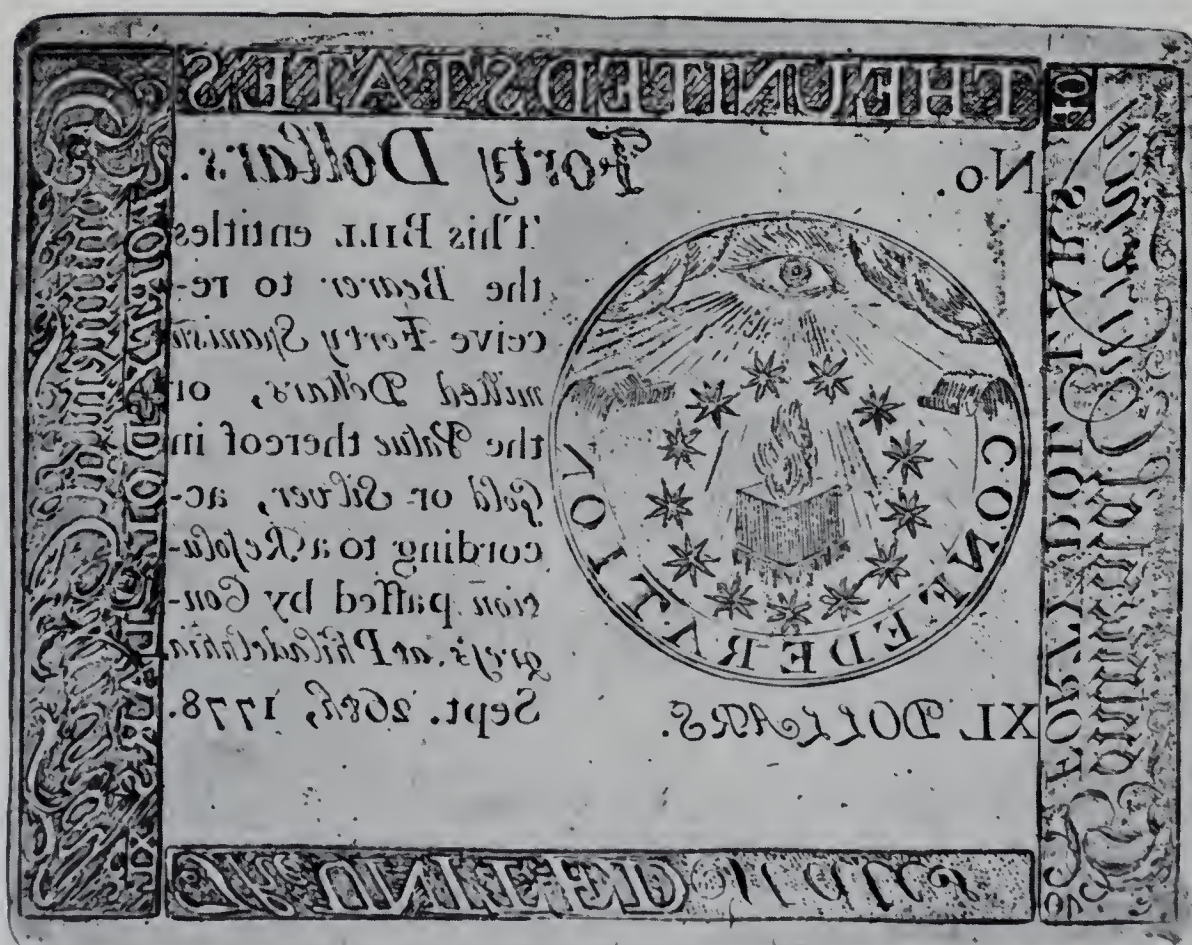


Fig. 87.—COPPER PLATE of September 26, 1778, used by the British to counterfeit 40-dollar Continental currency notes.

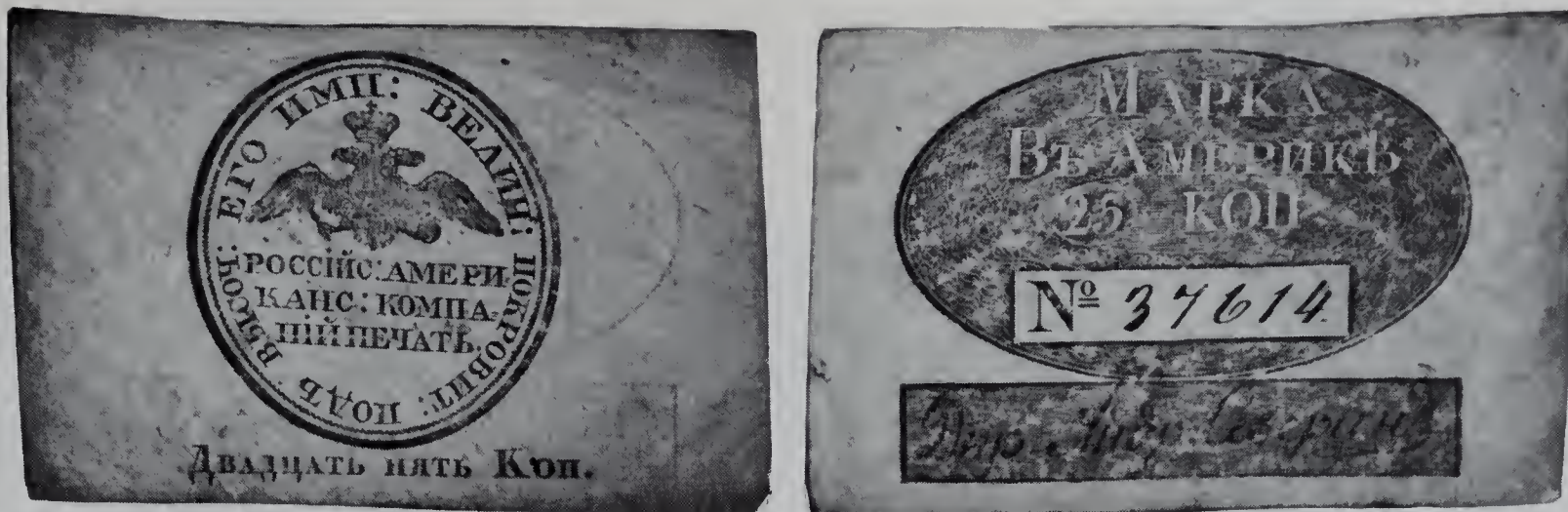


Fig. 88.—ALASKAN 25-KOPECK sealskin note, issued by the Russian-American Company (ca. 1826).



Fig. 89.—SCRIP FOR $6\frac{1}{4}$ CENTS ($\frac{1}{2}$ bit) issued in Washington, D.C., by Gadsby's National Hotel, July 18, 1837.



Fig. 90.—SUB-TREASURY INTEREST-BEARING certificate of deposit for 10,000 dollars payable through the Cincinnati Clearing House. Issued under the Act of February 25, 1862. Three quarters actual size.



Fig. 91.—UNITED STATES 100-dollar gold certificate, 1877. About $\frac{3}{4}$ actual size.



Fig. 92.—SPECIMEN PRINTING of United States 100,000-dollar gold certificate, 1934 series.
About $\frac{3}{4}$ actual size.



Fig. 93.—PEWTER MEDAL distributed to Indians by Missouri Fur Trading Co., 1843.

Fig. 94.—SILVER SHELL of George Washington medal, attributed to Conrad H. Küchler and supposedly prepared for Peace medal.



Fig. 95.—WHITE METAL SHELL of James Madison medal by Moritz Fürst.



Fig. 96.—TRIAL IMPRESSION in white metal of John Adams Indian Peace medal.

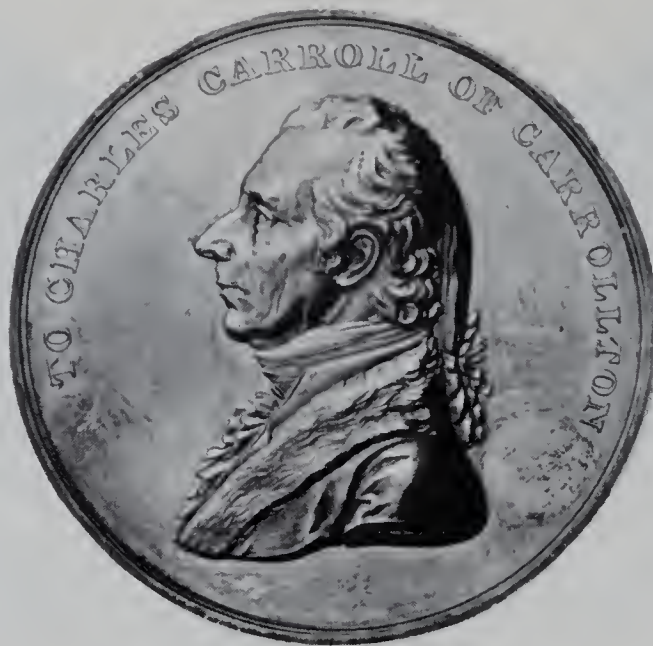


Fig. 97.—SILVER MEDAL, 1826, by C. Gobrecht, commemorating Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.



Fig. 98.—SILVER DRACHMA struck in Athens, 5th century B.C. Twice actual size.



Fig. 99.—SILVER STATER struck by Celtic tribe in the Danube region, ca. 2nd century B.C.

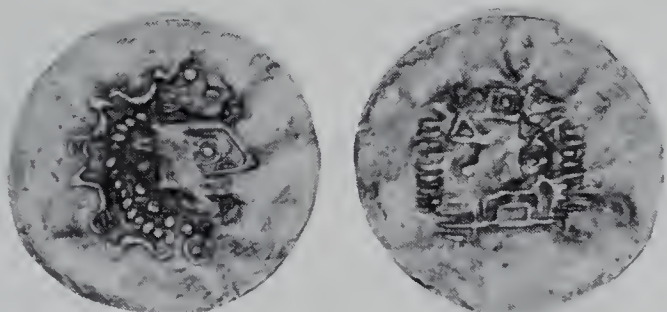


Fig. 100.—GOLD $\frac{1}{2}$ STATER struck by Celtic tribe 1st century B.C. or later in imitation of post-humous stater of Lysimachus of Thrace.



Fig. 101.—BRONZE COIN struck at Amphipolis, Macedon, in the name of Geta as Caesar (A.D. 198-209).



Fig. 102.—BRONZE COIN struck in Macedon during the reign of Emperor Gordian III (A.D. 238-244).



Fig. 103.—BRONZE MEDALLION struck in the name of Emperor Philip I (A.D. 244-249), showing view of the city of Bizya, Thrace.



Fig. 104.—BRONZE CONTORNIATE struck about A.D. 356–399 showing head of Emperor Trajan and view of circus maximus; monogram in silver inlay.



Fig. 106.—GERMAN BRACTEATE struck by Count Burkhard II of Falkenstein (1147–1174).



Fig. 108.—NECESSITY QUARTER GULDEN stamped on cardboard during the Spanish siege of Leyden in 1574.



Fig. 105.—BRONZE FOLLARO struck at Salerno, Italy, during the 10th century.



Fig. 107.—NECESSITY SILVER TALER struck in the name of Sigismund II Augustus of Poland in 1564, during the war with Livonia.



Fig. 109.—SILVER HALF POLTINA of Peter the Great, 1701.



Fig. 110.—SILVER RUBLE of Peter the Great, 1710.



Fig. 111.—COPPER TRIAL KOPECK of Peter the Great, 1721.



Fig. 112.—SILVER DOUBLE RUBLE of Peter the Great, 1722.



Fig. 114.—SQUARE COPPER HALF POLTINA of Catherine I, 1726.



Fig. 115.—COPPER POLUSHKA of Peter II, 1727.



Fig. 116.—TRIAL KOPECK in copper of Peter II (1727-1730).

Fig. 118.—COPPER PATTERN for 5-kopeck piece struck in 1771 by Catherine II, during the occupation of Moldavia and Wallachia.





Fig. 113.—PATTERN HALF POLTINA in silver, 1726; with mint tag.



Fig. 117.—COPPER PATTERN RUBLE of Catherine II, 1771.



Fig. 119.—FIFTY-CENT PIECE of Canada, 1921.

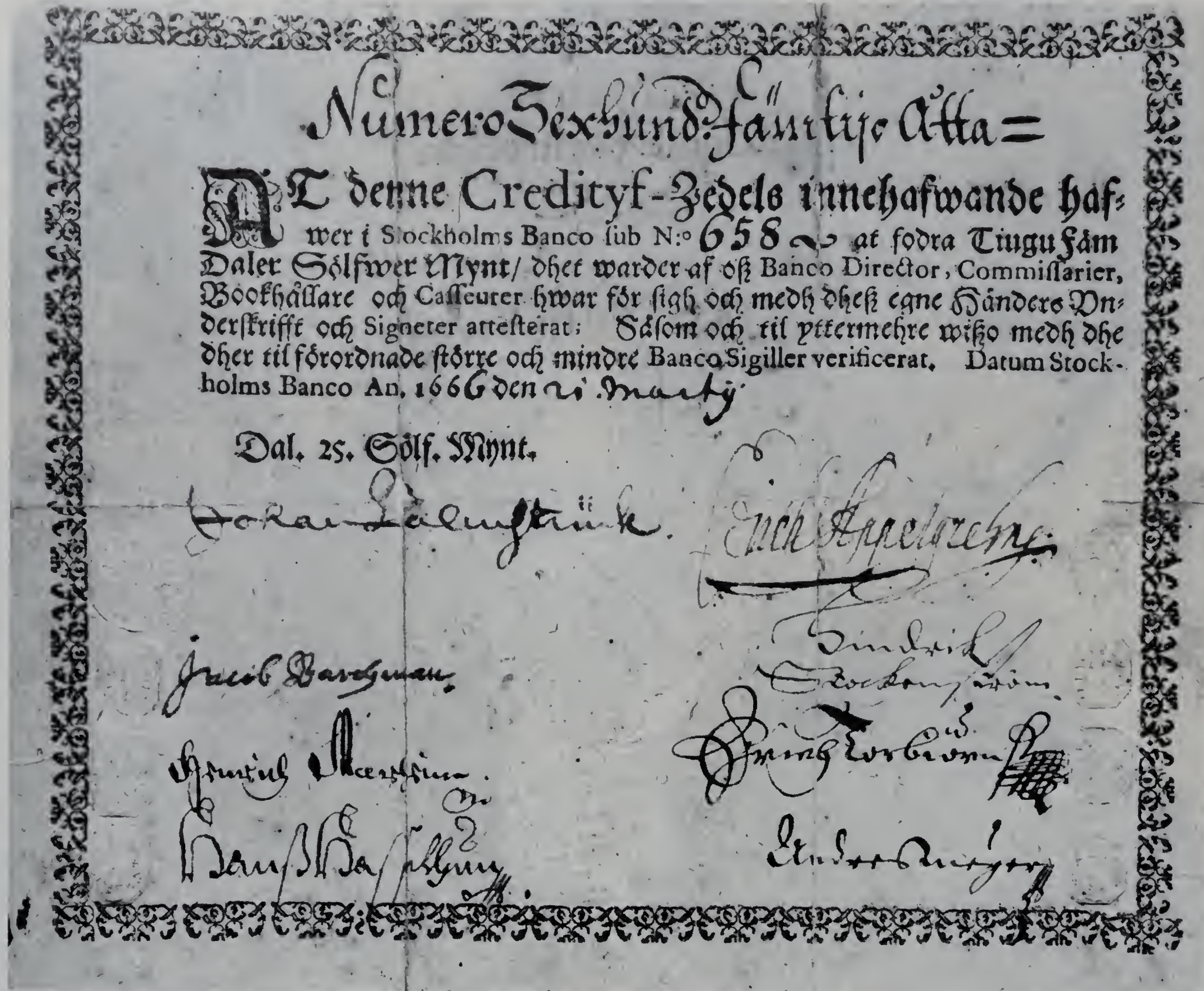


Fig. 120.—SWEDISH CERTIFICATE of credit for 25 dalers in silver, 1666, issued by the Stockholm Bank. One of the earliest bank notes issued in the Western world. Slightly reduced.

Fig. 122.—A 500-PIASTRE NOTE issued by General Gordon in Khartoum, Sudan, 1884.



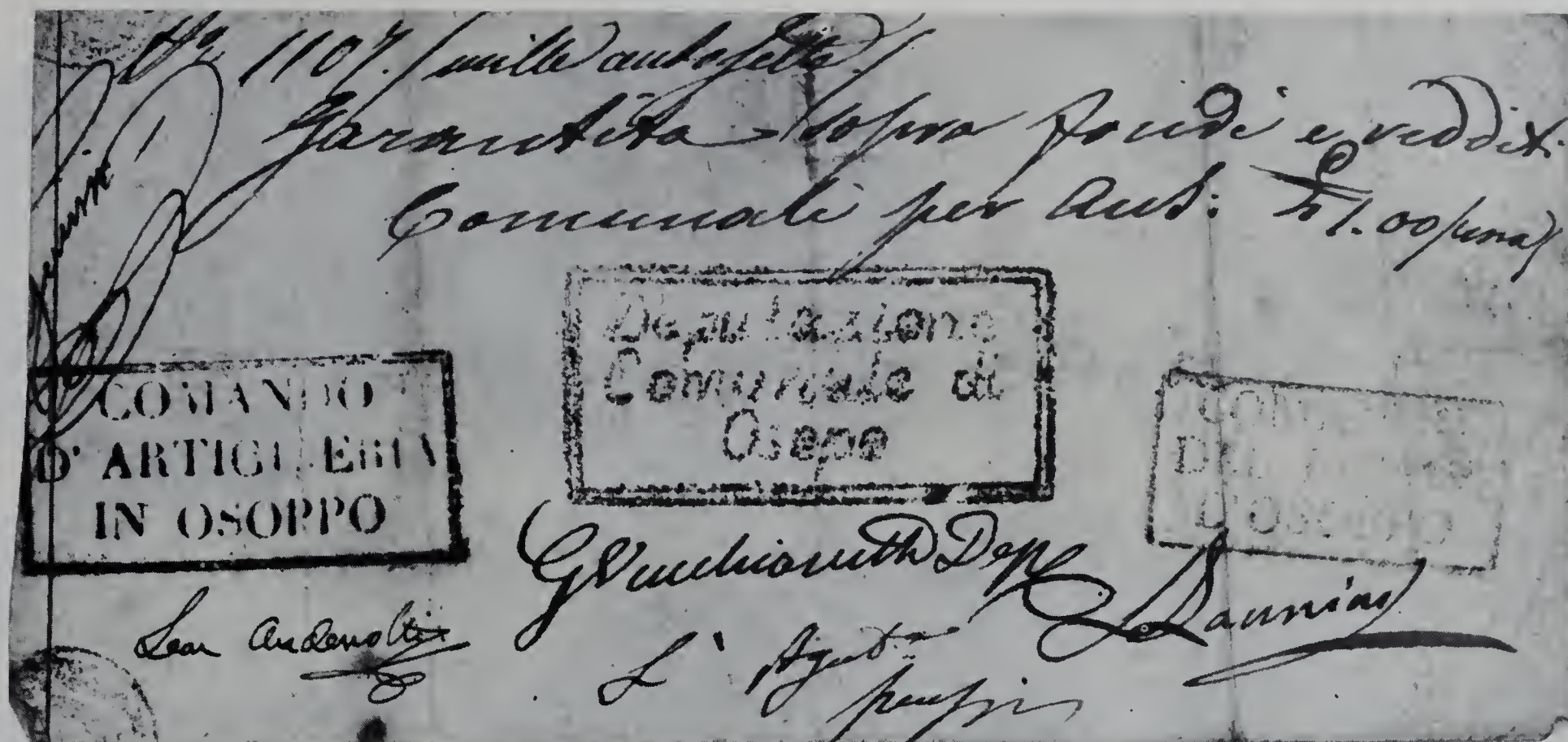


Fig. 121.—ONE-LIRE NOTE issued during the Austrian siege of Osoppo (Lombardo-Venetia) in 1848.



Fig. 123.—GOLD MEDAL commemorating coronation of Frederick I of Sweden, May 3, 1720. Engraved by J. K. Hedlinger.

Fig. 124.—SILVER MEDAL commemorating the capture of Noteborg, 1702, by Peter the Great of Russia.



Fig. 125.—SILVER MEDAL of Alexander I of Russia, commemorating the construction of the Stock Exchange in St. Petersburg, 1805. Engraved by F. Leberecht.



Fig. 126.—“THE PHILOSOPHER,” reverse of Rembrandt medal in cast bronze by French medallist Raymond Joly.

Fig. 127.—OBVERSE DIE used for marriage medal of Mary, Queen of Scotland and Lord Darnley, 1565.





Fig. 128.—GENERAL VIEW of the northwest court in the Arts and Industries Building, about 1915.



Fig. 129.—VIEW OF NUMISMATIC EXHIBITS in the west-north hall of the Arts and Industries Building, 1924.



Fig. 130.—VIEW OF NUMISMATIC EXHIBITS in the northwest range of the Arts and Industries Building, 1932.



Fig. 131.—NUMISMATIC EXHIBITS in the Arts and Industries Building, 1957.



Fig. 132.—MODERNIZED NUMISMATIC EXHIBITS, Arts and Industries Building, 1961.

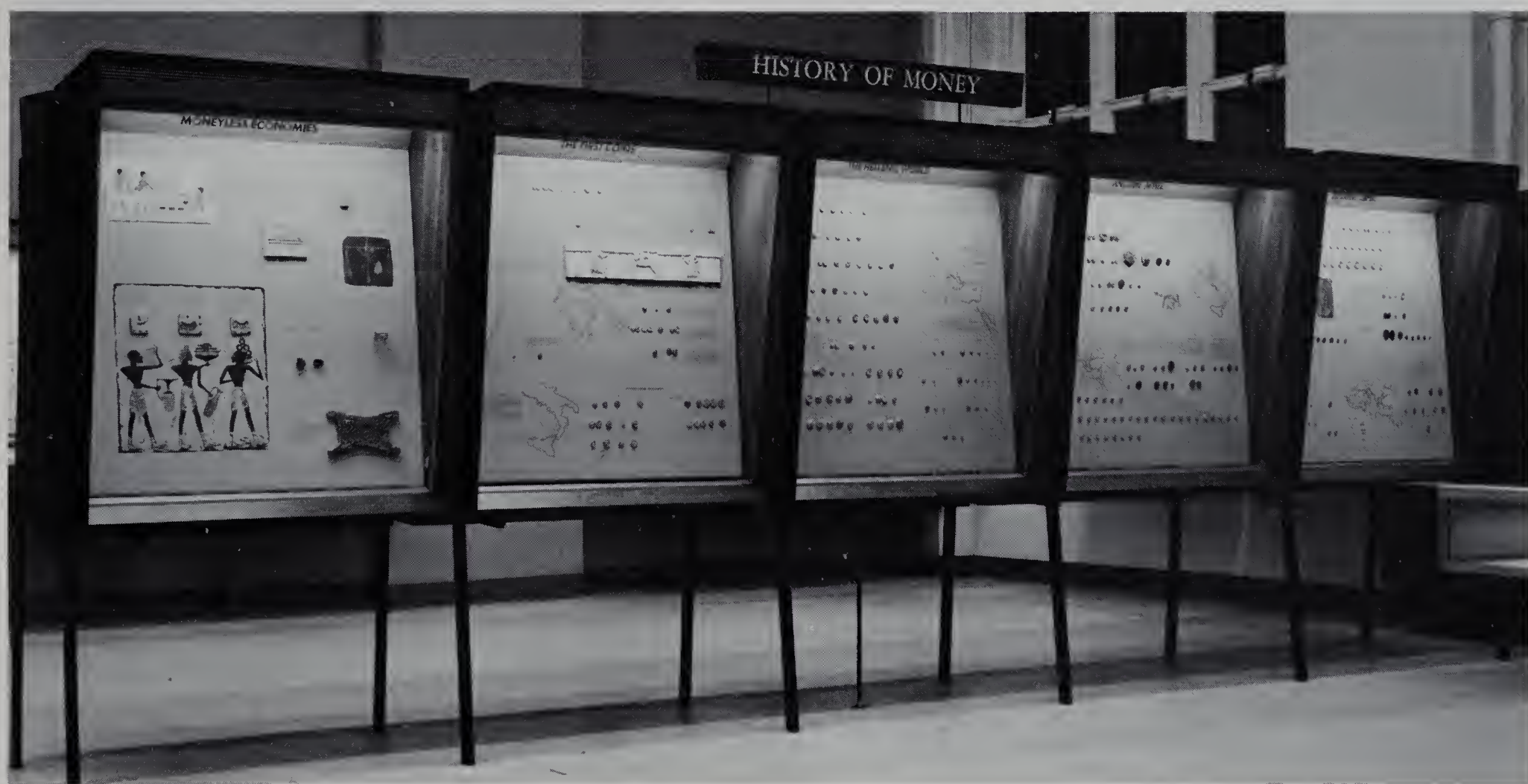


Fig. 133.—FIRST SECTION of history of money exhibit.

THE PENNY

Charlemagne

France

Germany

Italy

Scandinavia

Bohemia

England

King Offa of Mercia (757-797) struck England's first penny, but regular issues did not begin until the reign of King Edgar (959-975). Spreading rapidly throughout northern Europe the English penny was frequently imitated in Flanders, Saxony, Sweden, Denmark, and Bohemia. Its weight, slightly debased during the 12th Century, was revalued by Henry II in 1180 and a new sterling or long cross penny was instituted.



When the Roman Empire's monetary resources were greatly depleted after the fall of the Roman Empire and the use of barter became extensive, gold and silver coins were issued sparingly. Charlemagne's monetary reform in A.D. 781 brought a greater stability to European economy. The penny, still in use in England today, was established at this time. The silver penny, serving as the basis for the new system, dominated the economy of the Western world until the late 15th Century.

Bracteates

A technique for striking silver coins (as thin as bear impressions) on both sides was developed in Germany during the 12th Century. The oldest of these "bracteates" was struck in 1155 in Erfurt by Archbishop Adalbert of Mainz.

In Querfurt, Halberstadt, Thuringia, and Saxony they reached a high artistic stage, ranking them among the finest examples of medieval art.

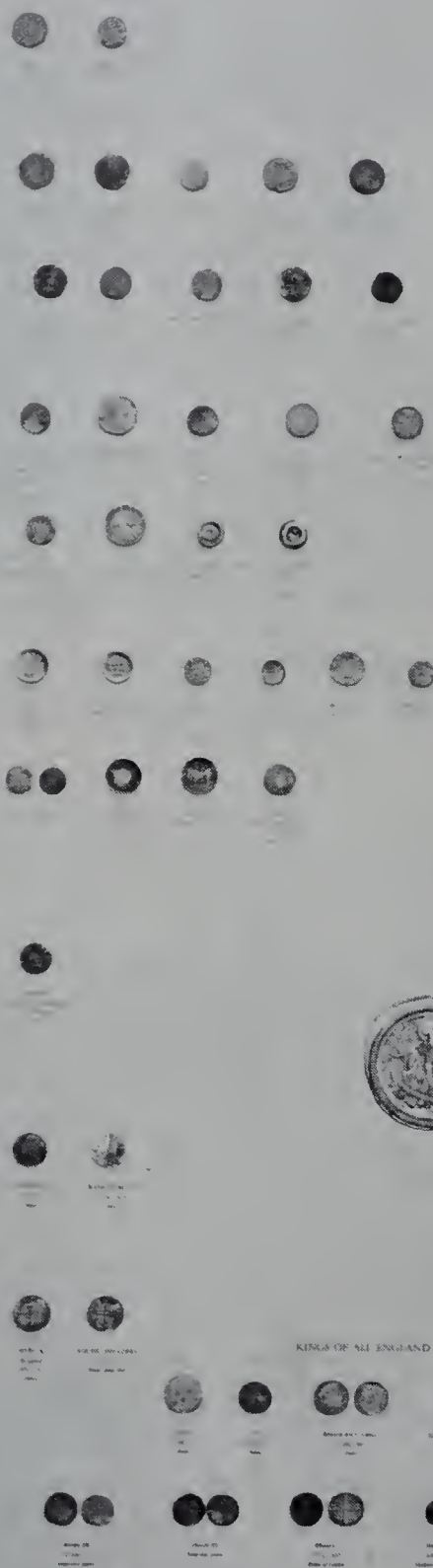


Fig. 134.—EXHIBIT ILLUSTRATING the penny as the dominant coin of the Western world in the Middle Ages.

RISE OF MODERN AMERICA, 1873-1900

THIS PERIOD of economic expansion saw the establishment of a virtual gold standard followed by a continuing battle to maintain the value of silver.

The issuance of silver and gold certificates was extensive and, under the National Banking System which was extended for an additional 20 years, large numbers of bank notes were put into circulation.

Coinage of both gold and silver was greatly increased during this time and new coins and coin designs were introduced. Fractional paper currency was abolished.



COINAGE LAW OF 1873

This law established a virtual gold standard with the gold dollar as the unit of value. The weight of subsidiary silver coinage was adapted to the Latin Union system used in France and other countries. This weight change was indicated on each coin by arrows at the date.

The silver dollar, half-dollar, and dime were abolished.



FRACTIONAL CURRENCY

The 10th and last issue of fractional notes was circulated from 1873 until 1876 when all such notes were replaced with subsidiary silver coin.



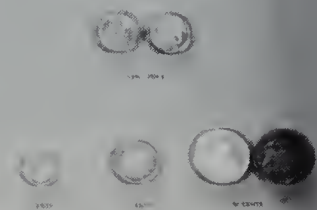
LEGAL TENDER NOTES

These notes continued to circulate in large numbers as the principal currency of the nation. Under the Specie Resumption Act of 1875 they were made redeemable in gold.

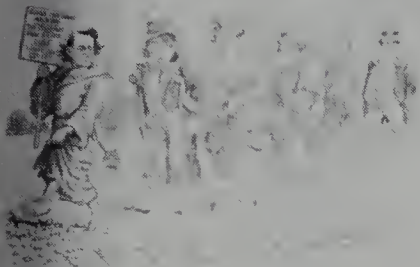


NEW SILVER PIECES

An entirely new 20-cent piece was introduced in 1875 and arrows were eliminated from subsidiary silver coins.



MOVEMENT FOR FREE COINAGE OF SILVER



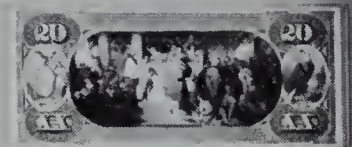
SILVER CERTIFICATES

Notes redeemable in silver were authorized by the Acts of 1878 and 1890.



NATIONAL BANK NOTES

In 1887 the National Banking System was extended for an additional 20 years. Banks chartered for the first time issued first charter notes (blackbacks) while those chartered for a second and 20-year period issued brownbacks.



FREE SILVER COINAGE

Extensive new finds of silver caused a rapid decline in its value and gave rise to a strong political movement favoring restoration of the silver dollar. In 1878 the Bland-Allison Act authorized the monthly purchase of from 2 to 4 million dollars of bullion for coinage into silver dollars.



TREASURY NOTES

Through increased mining, the price of silver continued to drop. In an effort to maintain the value of silver at parity with gold, the Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890 authorized additional purchases of silver with treasury notes, redeemable in either silver or gold.



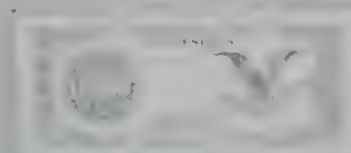
5-CENT PIECE

A new 5-cent piece with a Liberty head designed by C. E. Barber was issued in 1883.



GOLD CERTIFICATES

Issued for general circulation in 1882, these notes were secured by gold deposits.



NEW COIN DESIGNS

Designs showing Barber's Liberty-head design were introduced in 1892.



Fig. 135.—PANEL ILLUSTRATING the period of economic expansion in the United States during the late 19th century.



Fig. 136.—TABLE CASE ARRANGEMENT depicting the history of the Reformation in coins and medals.



Fig. 138.—SEMI-AUTOMATIC DISPLAY CASE housing the Moritz Wormser collection of 20th-century coins of the world.

Fig. 139.—HALL OF MONETARY HISTORY AND MEDALLIC ART in the Museum of History and Technology, 1965.



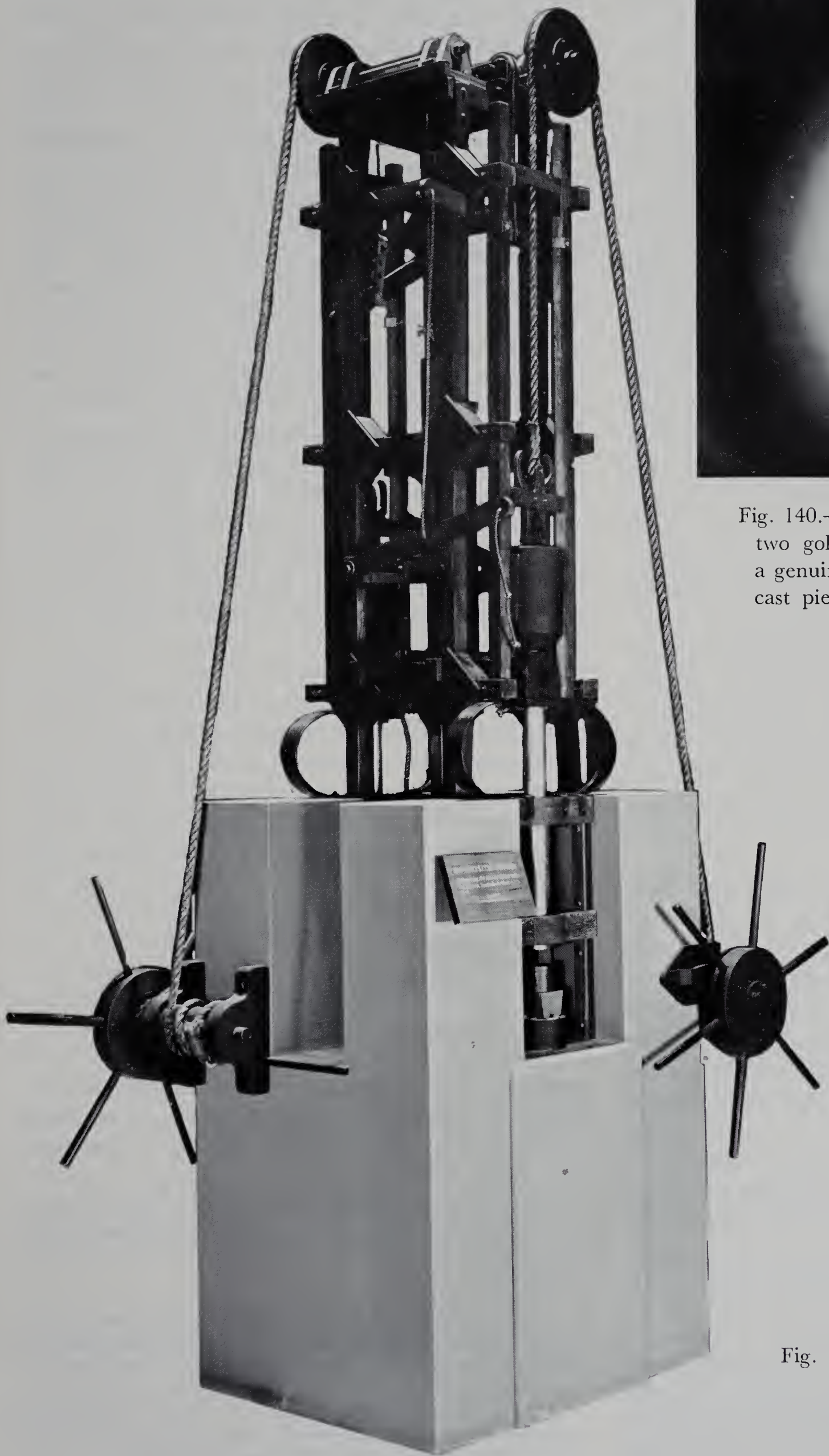


Fig. 137.—RECONSTRUCTION of Leonardo da Vinci's coin stamper.

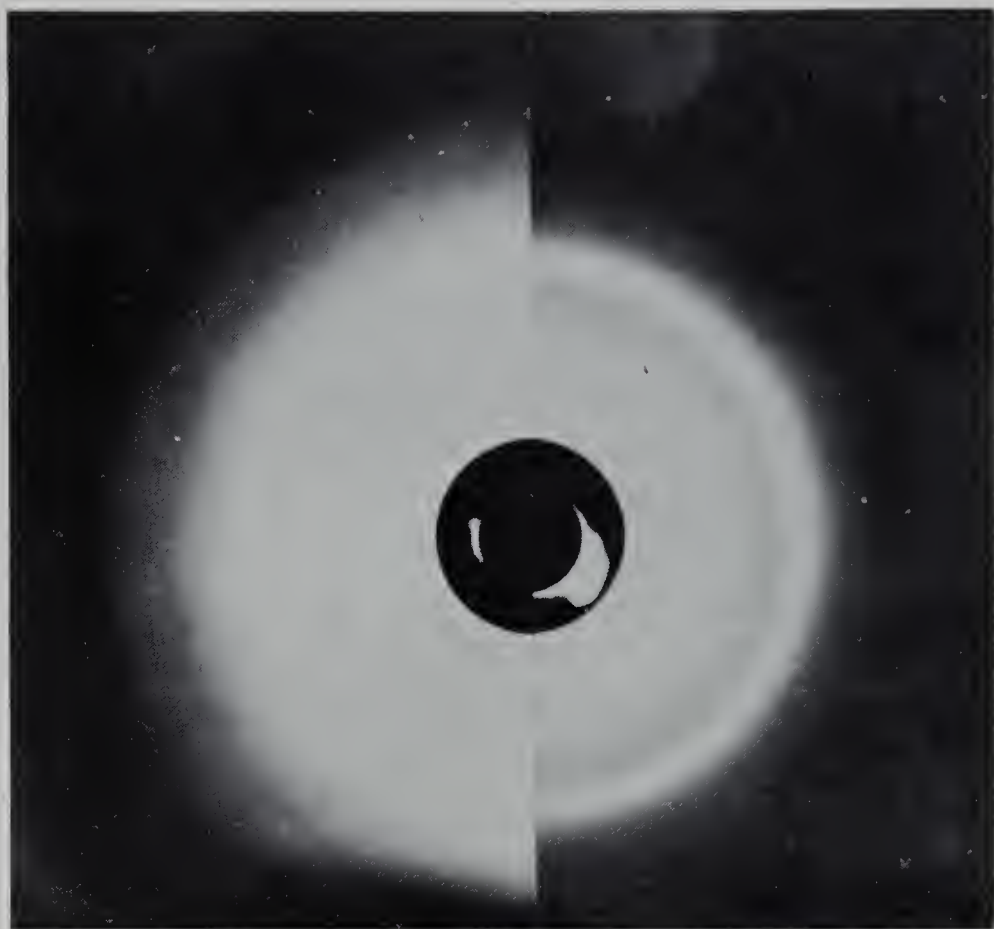


Fig. 140.—X-RAY-BACK-REFLECTION patterns of two gold coins, serving to distinguish between a genuine struck coin (left) and a counterfeit cast piece (right).

APPENDIX I

Smithson's Gold Sovereigns

From the very beginning of minting operations in the United States, choice specimens were sought for the Mint Collection. William E. Du Bois in his *Pledges of History. A Brief Account of the Collection of Coins Belonging to the Mint of the United States, More Particularly of the Antique Specimens* (Philadelphia, 1846) states that from the early days of the Mint, Adam Eckfeldt (fig. 12) used to select "and to retain some of the finest foreign specimens, as they appeared in deposit for recoinage." This had become an established procedure by June 1838 when the Mint cabinet was officially opened, just a few months before the huge Smithson gold deposit was received. The eagerness of the Mint assayers, William E. Du Bois (fig. 13) and Jacob R. Eckfeldt, to complete the Mint collections is well recorded. In his *Pledges of History* in 1846 and, again, in a second edition in 1851, Du Bois mentions that after the collection took a permanent form in June 1838, it "has gone on in a continual augmentation . . . specimens of new coinage, domestic or foreign, must be added as they appear.

"A great majority of the coins—almost all of those not over three hundred years old—have been culled from deposits, and consequently have cost us no more than their bullion value. They are moreover, the choicest of their kind. . . ."

Data concerning coins which might have been represented in the Mint collection in that early period of its existence may be excerpted, with caution and some qualifications, from Eckfeldt and Du Bois' *A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations Struck Within the Past Century* (Philadelphia, 1842). A medal-ruling machine invented by Christian Gobrecht and perfected by Joseph Saxton was used in making the illustrations in this *Manual*. The method required the preparation of galvanic copies from actual coins, and we must assume that they used only examples of coins easily accessible to them, and drew largely, therefore, on the Mint collection.

Among the English coins illustrated on plate VI of the *Manual* and described on pages 192 and 193 are found sovereigns of George III dated 1817 (illus. 5), William IV dated 1831 (illus. 7), and one dated 1838 of Queen Victoria (illus. 14). These, of course, may not be considered as a listing of *all* sovereigns represented at the time on the trays of the Mint

collection, but rather as a selection considered to be within the scope of the *Manual*.

Some years later, a catalogue listing all coins in the Mint cabinet was prepared under the direction of James Ross Snowden, director of the Mint. Entitled *A Description of Ancient and Modern Coins, in the Cabinet Collection at the Mint of the United States*, it was published in 1860 in Philadelphia. English coins from the period of the Smithson bequest may be found listed on pages 193–199. From this listing we learn that the collection contained sovereigns dated 1817,¹¹³ 1818,¹¹⁴ 1823, 1826,¹¹⁵ 1831, and 1838.¹¹⁶ Sovereigns were first issued in 1817 in the name of George III and continued to be struck in his name up to the end of his reign in 1820. Under George IV (1820–1830) there were two issues showing distinctly different designs. William IV (1830–1837) sovereigns were struck with dates from 1831 to 1837, while 1838 is the first year of sovereigns issued in the name of Queen Victoria (1837–1901). One might assume that sovereigns similar to any of these, bearing various dates from 1817–1838, would have been included in the Smithson deposit of 104,960 pieces; this, however, does not seem to have been the case.

The 1826 sovereign and the 1831 sovereign of William IV are not of a regular issue coined for circulation, but rather specimen strikings or proofs. Both pieces are preserved in the national numismatic collections at the Smithsonian. Obviously, these two pieces could not have been selected from deposits, but came directly from the London Mint and were among the "sample coins" which Franklin Peale was "obliged to purchase" and which he sent in 1833 to Samuel Moore, then director of the United States Mint, together with a few others presented to him by Mr. Morrison, the deputy master of the Royal Mint.¹¹⁷

There are, however, two sovereigns struck in the name of Queen Victoria, *both dated 1838*, and these are listed in Snowden's catalogue on pages 197ff. under numbers 183 and 184. One of the sovereigns

¹¹³ SNOWDEN, *Description*, p. 193, no. 124. A die break on the reverse side identifies this piece with the one illustrated on plate VI, 5 in the "*Manual*" and with the one now in the national collections.

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*, no. 125.

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 195, nos. 149–150. The 1823 sovereign is not listed in the second (1913) and third (1914) editions of the U.S. Mint catalogue, neither can it be located in the collection.

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 197, no. 169.

¹¹⁷ Letter from Franklin Peale to S. Moore, November 20, 1833, National Archives, Records of the United States Mint at Philadelphia, Franklin Peale Correspondence, No. 1.

is illustrated on plate XIX, 1.¹¹⁸ These listings of the two coins of identical dates are confirmed in later editions of the Mint catalogue prepared by Thomas Louis Comparette,¹¹⁹ and, in fact, both of the 1838 sovereigns have been in the Smithsonian since the transfer of the United States Mint collection to Washington on May 29, 1923.

Assuming the “continual augmentation” of the Mint collection, and with 104,960 gold sovereigns in the Smithson deposit of 1838 from which to choose, it seems likely that special circumstances led to the presence in the Mint collection of two identical coins of 1838. This strongly suggests that the Smithson deposit made by agent Rush did not contain sovereigns from dates other than 1838.¹²⁰ Had all dates issued for the 1817–1838 period been represented it might be expected that at least some of the later dates would have been in the Mint collection, but they are not.

Perhaps the simplest and most obvious explanation for assuming that the two 1838 sovereigns in the Smithsonian Mint collection were chosen from the Smithson deposit is that Richard Rush—a lawyer, a former Attorney General and Secretary of State, and the appointed agent of the United States in acquiring the Smithson bequest—tried to obtain coins of full weight. Considering the large quantity of sovereigns to be remelted and recoinced, this was a most important factor. Consequently they had to be in mint condition. The obvious choice was to acquire coins of the most recent mintage, 1838, for that date itself would guarantee against any possible weight loss through circulation (fig. 2).

APPENDIX II

The Columbian Institute's Numismatic Collections

In the minutes of its meetings, as well as in other papers of the Columbian Institute preserved in the Smithsonian Archives, Miscellaneous 92, we find records for approximately 60 accessions. The first donation, of 107 coins, was recorded at the meeting of December 17, 1825. These were presented by Dr.

¹¹⁸ See also Eckfeldt and Du Bois, op. cit., pl. VI, 8.

¹¹⁹ *Catalogue of Coins, Tokens, and Medals in the Numismatic Collection of the Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.* (2nd ed., Washington, 1912, and 3rd ed. 1914), Part II, p. 448, nos. 202–203.

¹²⁰ A check of the United States Mint records at the National Archives was inconclusive in this respect.

Tobias Watkins, a member of the Institute. The second donation, recorded on August 12, 1826, consisted of 110 ancient copper coins collected by officers of the United States' squadron in the Mediterranean in and around Tunis and transmitted on their behalf by Lieutenant Bell. Finally, in 1833, the Institute received from I. H. Causten, Jr., a medal commemorating the reform of the Constitution in Chile.

The Institute had been housed in the United States Treasury building from 1820 to December 7, 1822, when it moved to the basement of City Hall. It remained there until the latter part of 1824, when a Room 44 was assigned for its use in the Capitol building, under the library. We must assume that this small numismatic collection of 218 items was kept with the other objects or “curiosities” in the Institute's cabinet.

APPENDIX III

John Varden's “Washington Museum”

John Varden, according to his own account, had been a resident of the District since 1803. His decision to open a museum was prompted by the fact, as he noted, referring to the period before 1829, that three persons had opened and made very great collections with the help of generous citizens, and then moved away from Washington, “taking the many rich and scarce donations with them thus leaving the seat of the government without so valuable an institution.”

In 1843 Varden became a self-appointed “curator” of the articles sent to the National Institute by the United States Exploring Expedition (1843–1853). When these materials were moved to the Smithsonian in 1858, he moved with them, and continued as an “arranger.” His diary for 1857–1863 is preserved in the Smithsonian Archives. In January 1865 his health failed and he died on February 10, at the age of 74 years.¹²¹

Varden's records of his museum and its numismatic collections are preserved in the Smithsonian Archives under Miscellaneous 52. In general they are rather fragmentary and fairly continuous only for 1830. For the months of January through April 1830,

¹²¹ The obituary in *The Evening Star* of Saturday, February 11, 1865, recounts his museum career while *The National Republican* of the same date mentions that he was originally from Baltimore and that he served under General Jackson at the battle of New Orleans.

we find 15 donors of numismatic materials listed, the number of pieces received amounting to 91. A. Mondellic, Jackson Gray, George Allen, C. Bentley, and J. Dunn are some of the names of donors mentioned. The latter may be identified with James C. Dunn, publisher of the *American Spectator and Washington City Chronicle* and the *National Messenger*.

An analysis of all records preserved shows for the entire period from 1829 to 1841, 23 numismatic donors. The total number of numismatic objects indexed amounts to 246 specimens, among which are 4 medals, 24 silver coins, 69 copper coins, 136 coins or medals not further identified, and 13 Continental currency notes.

In the Smithsonian Archives there are on file under Miscellaneous 52 four catalogues of objects in John Varden's museum. For reference purposes these catalogues are designated A through D. They were prepared at various times and cover the period from 1829 to 1841 with varying degrees of completeness.

Catalogue A

"JOHN VARDEN'S MUSEUM" is a leatherbound index measuring 25 x 36.7 x 2.1 cm with entries on the first 28 pages, which are unnumbered. The first entry is dated October 1829 and the last is in June 1840. The most extensive entries are for January through April 1830 and most of the numismatic items are found in this period. There is little information for the years 1831 through most of 1835, since Varden lost his "small" catalogue at sea on August 11, 1835, as he notes on the fifth page. All information of numismatic interest in this volume is listed subsequently. To preserve the "Varden flavor," his spelling has been left unchanged. The information has been annotated and completed with additional information taken from the other three manuscript catalogues.

Catalogue B

"SUNDRIE ARTICLES COLLECTED FOR THE WASHINGTON CITY MUSEUM BEGINNING THE 20TH OF OCTOBER 1837."

This is a small leatherbound copybook with 44 unnumbered pages, measuring 15.4 x 22.3 cm. There are various numismatic entries and notes on pages 1 through 32, and 43 and 44. The entries on pages 2 through 27 covering the period from October 20, 1837, through May 1840, were canceled as though they had been transcribed into a permanent index.

Catalogue C

"JOHN VARDEN'S MUSEUM WASHINGTON CITY D. OF C."

This manuscript, measuring 20 x 31.8 cm, consists of eight double sheets, one of them serving as cover and title page. The first seven sheets are consecutively numbered with entries on only one side and contain a carefully written, frequently condensed version of his "accessions" for the period from October 1829 through July 1836. Values of the coins and medals listed are indicated in this inventory. Small pieces are valued at 6¼ cents each, larger ones at 12½ cents or one bit, a medal at 50 cents.

Catalogue D

"WASHINGTON MUSEUM, JOHN VARDEN PROPRIETOR"

This index gives a list of objects "as they were at the time a Committee from the National Institution examined them on exhibition . . ." in January 1840.

The manuscript measures 25 x 36.7 cm and consists of three unnumbered and 29 consecutively numbered pages with entries through page 20. It was prepared about 1855 since it mentions on page 1 that the objects had been in use for some 13 or 14 years.

JOHN VARDEN'S MUSEUM: A List of Numismatic Items

Page No.

2

1830, January

5 Peices of Old Copper coin	Antonious Mondellie
2 Silver Coin of perrue	...
1 Copper Coin	Jackson Gray
2 Silver Coin	A Mondellie
1 Canadian shilling	Nemiah Lewis
2 Silver Coin of South America	...
4 Peices of Copper Coin of England	Georg Allen
1 Do of Silver	Do Do
1 Silver Coin of South America	...
3 A Silver Cin of England 6 Pence made in 1567	Marlhey An Honewell

February

A Silver Coin	
9 Peices of Coin	Amy Patterson
	John Smith
	Marythey Ann Honewell
1 Peice of Coin	William Harison
2 Do of Do	...
1 Medal by . . .	Jackson Gray
3 Peices of Coin	...
1 Silver Coin	...

March

1 Silver Coin of England	A. Mondellie
1 Silver Coin	Mr Clark
1 Silver Coin of the East Indies	...
1 Copper Coin ½ penney	Mr Clark
1 Coin of France	...
4 22 Four Copper Coin	Bardarah Leighay
26 Thirty five Copper Coin	Henry Banaster

		April	
28	A Silver Coin of Brisiels	...	
	One East Indien coin cllled the tash	George Stevenson	
33	A Copper Meddal of General Washington	James Dunn	
	A Farthing token	I W Blair	
34	A Copper coin of Porlagale	James S. Rowe	
35	Four Silver Coin	...	
	One Columbian Dollar	...	
	Several Silver and Copper Coin	Mrs. Sarah M Cafferty	
5		October	
56	One of the smalles peices of Silver Coin	Mrs. Rosina Rowe	
		1836, June & July	
113	110 Pieces of Coin	Caleb Bentley	
		June, 4th	
10	2 A Copper Meddal of the Second Presidency of George Washington in the year 1796	pt by Wm Durr	
		June, 27th	
21	6 Peices of Coin	pt by N M Ludlowe	
		July, 6th	
11	42 110 Pieces of Coin and Meddals	Caleb Bentley	
12	71 Three Copper Coin	C Bentley	
13		September	
94	Loand—A fine Meddal of Horatio Gates	to Loand and to be Returned if called for by Caleb Bentley	
18		1838, September	
	Three Pieces of Old Coin	Joseph Ledger	
25		1839, October	
	3 Copper Coins or Meddals		
	1 Impression of the first Doller coined in the United States		
26		November	
	13 Pieces Contenental Money Paid to the Officers of the U. States army	by Col. J. H. Hook	

* * *

[The following excerpts are from Ms. B]

11 [?] pieces of copper coin pt. by Lieutenant
[blank]

A silver coin of [blank] pt. by Mr. Fisher.

APPENDIX IV

The National Institute

A. Numismatic Collections, 1841–1846

Four “Bulletins of the National Institute,” 1841–1846, published in Washington contain records of donations of numismatic material received from about 70 different donors during that period.¹²²

Arranged by categories, insofar as is possible, the Institute’s collection consisted of: 70 United States coins; 160 or more ancient Greek and Roman pieces;¹²³ 1,810 medieval and modern bronze and silver coins; 6 modern gold coins; 1 Russian platinum coin; 580 or more paper currencies, most of them American Colonial and Continental issues; and 200 medals, of these about 54 United States pieces. These figures must be regarded only as estimates

because the exact number of specimens received is not given in every entry. Of these donations received during a period of six years, only 2 percent of the total was United States coins. They included a “complete collection of dimes,”¹²⁴ and a half dollar of 1792,¹²⁵ possibly one of the extremely rare Washington pieces. The cabinet did include, however, a sizable number of Colonial and Continental notes, among them 67 Virginia issues.¹²⁶

Worthy of note among the United States medals represented are 49 national medals sent in 1844 by Franklin Peale, chief coiner of the Philadelphia Mint.¹²⁷ Of particular interest is the listing attached by Peale which contains several significant remarks confirming a fact known from other sources—that in 1844, the presidential series issued by the Department of Indian Affairs did not include medals of Presidents Washington, John Adams, and Harrison. Peale emphasized the fact that the national medals were usually struck in silver.

Among the list of donors are the names of many prominent personalities of that period. The Honorable and Mrs. Joel Roberts Poinsett, Secretary of War (1837–1841), one of the founders of the National Institute and its first president, contributed many significant coins and medals, among them a Russian platinum piece.¹²⁸ Governor Kirke Paulding of New York, the popular writer and one-time Secretary of the Navy (1837–1841), donated among other pieces 8 ancient Greek and 45 Roman coins.¹²⁹ Members of the diplomatic corps and foreign representatives also contributed in a large measure to the increase of the collections. Charles Serruys, chargé d’affaires of Belgium, for instance, presented several

¹²² HOWARD L. ADELSON, *The American Numismatic Society 1858–1958* (New York, 1958), p. 5, points out that “It is questionable whether there were actually three hundred numismatic collectors to be found in the United States in the year 1850.” He draws this conclusion from a letter by Edward Cogan to the editor printed under the title “Concerning the Coin Trade in America” in the *American Journal of Numismatics* (New York, March 1867), vol. 1, pp. 86f. Actually Cogan indicates (p. 87) that “it may be fairly questioned, whether, at this time there could have been one hundred persons named, that were Coin Collectors, in the whole of the United States.” While assuming that Cogan had in mind only active collectors his statement may be accepted only with caution and it certainly gains an entirely different perspective considering the large number of donors and donations received by the Institute between 1841 and 1846. It should also be considered that a large number of the donations were coming from a relatively limited geographical area in the United States.

¹²³ The number of ancient coins was probably much larger, possibly close to one thousand pieces. In fact, included among the modern bronze and silver coins is a “Collection of Coins, etc. eight hundred and fifty-three Copper, thirteen Silver” mentioned in the *Third Bulletin*, page 377, under February 10th, 1845, without indicating the name of the donor. This may well be the “collection of ancient coins” shipped by George Moore, United States Consul at Trieste, by the *Camilla* to New York, as he announced to the Institute in a letter dated June 22, 1844. Cf. *Third Bulletin*, page 365.

¹²⁴ *Third Bulletin of the Proceedings of the National Institute for the Promotion of Science, Washington, D.C. February, 1842, to February, 1845*, p. 347.

¹²⁵ *Second Bulletin . . . March, 1841, to February, 1842*, p. 224.

¹²⁶ *Third Bulletin*, p. 322.

¹²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 355.

¹²⁸ *First Bulletin*, p. 43; *Second Bulletin*, pp. 74, 83.

¹²⁹ *Third Bulletin*, p. 340.

medals on behalf of his Government.¹³⁰ The first donation of numismatic material received for the cabinet of the National Institute came from the United States consul at Malaga, G. Read. It consisted of 24 Roman, Moorish, and Arabic coins.¹³¹

Charles Rhind, former United States Commissioner to Turkey, gave a group of Russian coins and medals as well as several Turkish coins and some ancient pieces.¹³² W. B. Hodgson, United States Consul in Tunis, also contributed a significant group of ancient mintings.¹³³ Certainly among the most assiduous donors was John P. Brown, "First Dragoman" in Constantinople, who contributed a large number of Turkish issues.¹³⁴

A letter characteristic of the inspired interest of that period is preserved in an extract in the "Proceedings." It was written by Lieutenant Andrew A. Harwood, USN, from the New York Navy Yard on November 16, 1841, wherein he pointed out that "officers, particularly of the Mediterranean Squadron, may render very essential service to the Institution, the interests of which I feel assured they will all take a pride in advancing."¹³⁵

"By means of that simple apparatus the Electrotype, perfect fac-similes of the choicest medals, both ancient and modern, may be collected;¹³⁶ and if the apparatus of Daguerre could be placed on board one of the ships, perfectly accurate views of the most interesting sites and monuments of classic history obtained." The record shows that Lieutenant Harwood donated in 1841 four electrotyped medals.¹³⁷

The Institute maintained close ties with the Philadelphia Mint. Director R. M. Patterson was a corresponding member, as was Joseph Saxton, the ingenious inventor and constructor of the Mint's precision scales.

The numismatic collections of the young institution were also enhanced by Professor C. A. Holmboe, of Norway, who sent copies of his own publications to the library and donated 176 medieval coins, mostly Norwegian from the cabinet of Christiania University where he was teaching. He also sent duplicates for exchanges to be made by the National Institute.¹³⁸

Characteristic of the wide support of numismatic endeavors was the donation by a "club of members" of copies of medals of French and English sovereigns, from William the Conqueror to Queen Victoria and Louis Philippe. These were electrotyped by Professor Wyatt and presented on May 18, 1843, by B. Ogle Tayloe of Washington.¹³⁹

The Institute's medal collection benefited also from Alexander Vattermare's exchange arrangements between France and the United States. Through his efforts, the National Institute received numerous medals presented by eminent men in France, as well as works of art and books. Prominent French medalists joined the Institute as corresponding members; among them Jean Jacques Barre, Graveur Général de Médailles at the Paris Mint from 1842 to 1855; Jean François Antoine Bovy, the well-known medal engraver of Swiss extraction; the celebrated medallist André Galle, as well as his prolific colleague Jacques Edouard Gatteaux. Several of these medallists contributed examples of their work, through the good offices of Vattermare, to the collections.¹⁴⁰

The records of the Institute yield the names of many prominent foreign numismatists of that period, such as the Polish Count Edouard Raczyński, the famous François Lenormant of France, and Count F. Szecheny from Hungary. Closer contacts were established with the noted medievalist Joachim Lelewel, living as a Polish expatriate in Brussels. A number of his publications were in the Institute's library.¹⁴¹

Official numismatic donations to the National Institute are listed in *Bulletins* of the early years (the original spelling and punctuation is preserved):

¹³⁰ *Second Bulletin*, pp. 122, 127.

¹³¹ On December 14, 1840, see *First Bulletin*, p. 14.

¹³² *Third Bulletin*, p. 331.

¹³³ *Ibid.*, pp. 235, 262.

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 274, 286; *Fourth Bulletin*, pp. 486, 493.

¹³⁵ *Second Bulletin*, pp. 127f.

¹³⁶ Electrotyping was in vogue at that time and frequently referred to as Professor Jacobi's process. In fact, it had been described by Dr. M. H. Jacobi of Dorpat, Russia, in *The London and Edinburgh Philosophical Magazine and Journal of Science* (London, 1839), vol. 15, pp. 161-163 ("On the Method of Producing Copies of Engraved Copper-plates by Voltaic Action").

¹³⁷ *Second Bulletin*, p. 121.

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 98; *Third Bulletin*, pp. 340f.; *Fourth Bulletin*, pp. 487f, 496.

¹³⁹ *Third Bulletin*, pp. 302, 306. In the United States Mint records preserved at the National Archives, "Correspondence," there are letters dated March 2 and 9, April 26, and May 19, 1843, concerning Wyatt's request to obtain impressions in tin of medals, that should enable him to present medals in silver by the electrotype process to the National Institute.

¹⁴⁰ *Third Bulletin*, pp. 345, 347, 348, 380f; *Fourth Bulletin*, pp. 489, 494.

¹⁴¹ *Second Bulletin*, pp. 80, 99; *Third Bulletin*, pp. 271, 274.

Bulletin of the Proceedings of the National Institution for the Promotion of
Science, Washington, 1841.

Date Received	Item No.	Description and Donor
Dec. 14, 1840	14	Twenty-four Roman, Moorish, and Arabian coins, found near Velez Malaga. Spain— <i>From G. Read Esq., U.S. Consul at Malaga.</i>
Jan. 22, 1841	31	Copper coins.— <i>From James Gaither.</i>
	32	Head of Dr. Franklin (framed), executed according to the Galvanic process of Jacobi, Franklin Peale, Philadelphia.— <i>From Franklin Peale.</i>
	32	A medal.— <i>From Mrs. Ramsay.</i>
Feb. 8, 1841	43	. . . Medal, struck at the centenary celebration of the city of New Haven, Connecticut. Seven silver coins. Russian coin of Platina. Five medals commemorative of the French revolution achieved in the three days of the 27th, 28th, and 29th of July, 1830. Copies of two medals moulded by a natural deposit of carbonate of lime near Radicofani. . . .— <i>From Mrs. Poinsett.</i>
	44	. . . Three gold coins. Fourteen silver coins. Eight paras. Thirty-one copper coins.— <i>From Mrs. Offley, Georgetown.</i>
Feb. 8, 1841	45	Medal struck to commemorate a reform of the constitution of Chili in 1833.— <i>From J. H. Causten, jr.</i>

Second Bulletin of the Proceedings of the National Institution for the
Promotion of Science, Washington, D.C., March, 1841, to February 1842

Date Received	Item No.	Description and Donor
March 8, 1841	70	Box of ancient coins.— <i>From Dr. T. B. J. Frye.</i>
April 12, 1841	75	Medal struck at the celebration of the Shakspeare Jubilee in 1769.— <i>From Hon. Joel R. Poinsett.</i>
	79	Medal commemorating the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Rail-Road.— <i>From Hon. Joel R. Poinsett.</i>
May 10, 1841	80	Silver Coins and Minerals.— <i>From Mr. Kervand.</i>
	80	Numismatique du Moyen Age, &c., par Joachim Lelewel, 2 vols, 8vo., . . .— <i>From Mr. Kallussowski, West River, Md.</i>
June 14, 1841	83	Silver and Copper Coins— <i>From Mrs. Poinsett.</i>
	83	Silver and Copper Coins— <i>From Hon. J. R. Poinsett.</i>
July 12, 1841	93	Medal commemorating the union of the waters of Lake Erie with the Atlantic.— <i>From Lieut. John S. Chauncey, U.S.N.</i>
Aug. 9, 1841	97	Gold Coin, called Buntagee, coined in the city of Fez, in the year of the Hegira 1251, (A.D. 1835)— <i>From J. F. Mullett.</i>
	97	Silver Coin of the Emperor Muley Abdallah, coined in Morocco and named Citsushyee.— <i>From J. F. Mullett.</i>
	98	De prisca Re Monetaria Norvegiae, with plates by Professor C. A. Holmboe, Christiana, Norway, 1840: transmitted by the Hon. Christopher Hughes, Chargé d'Affaires of U.S. to Sweden.— <i>From the Author.</i>

Date Received	Item No.	Description and Donor
	99	Sur les Medailles et Monnaies de Foux, par M. Lelewel, Bruxelles, 1837; (a bibliographical rarity,) in the Polish language.— <i>From H. Kallussowski, West River, Maryland.</i>
Sept. 13, 1841	104	Seven Medallions in Plaster— <i>From W. C. Gill.</i>
Nov. 8, 1841	118	One Five-Pound Note, 1759, Pennsylvania.— <i>From the same. (Benjamin C. Burt, Warwick, Orange County, New-York.)</i>
Nov. 8, 1841	118	One Dollar Note, 1775, Maryland.— <i>From the same.</i>
	118	Coins— <i>From Dr. Hanson Penn.</i>
Dec. 13, 1841	121	Four medals, electrotyped by the same (Lieut. Harwood).— <i>From the same (Lieut. Andrew Allen Harwood, U.S.N.).</i>
	122	Four Medals. No. 1. Struck by the Royal Society of Sciences, Letters and Arts of Antwerp, on the occasion of the bis-secular fêtes in honor of Rubens. No. 2. Of the National Exhibition of Fine Arts, in 1839, intended as a national reward. No. 3. Commemorative of the opening of the First Section of the Belgian Rail Roads in 1834. No. 4. Struck in honor of the Regent of Belgium.— <i>From Mons. Charles Serruys, Belgian Minister, in the name of the Belgian Government.</i>
	127	From M. Serruys, Chargé d’Affaires of Belgium, Belgian Legation, Washington, December 8, 1841.

Dear Sir: In addition to the Antique Roman Lamp, which you had the kindness to accept in my name for the National Institution, I hope you will allow me to offer you now—

1st. A medal struck by the Royal Society of Science, Letters and Arts of Antwerp, on the occasion of the bis-secular fêtes in honor of Rubens.

2d. A Medal of the National Exhibition of Fine Arts in 1839, intended as a national reward.

3d. A medal commemorating the opening of the first section of the Belgian Rail-Road, in 1834.

4th. A Medal struck in honor of the Regent of Belgium.

These Medals are presented by me, in the name of the Belgian Government, as a proof of the warm interest in the establishment and prosperity of the National Institution for the Promotion of Science, founded at the seat of Government, which is destined, I believe, to shed lustre on the United States.

127 From Lieutenant Harwood, U.S. Navy (Andrew A. Harwood) (Extract)
U.S. Navy-Yard, New York, November 16, 1841

My Dear Sir: But I beg to remind you that they [certain objects] are not forwarded so much for their novelty or intrinsic value as to point out a way in which the officers, particularly of the Mediterranean Squadron, may render very essential service to the Institution, the interests of which I feel assured they will all take a pride in advancing.

Date Received	Item No.	Description and Donor
		By means of that simple apparatus the Electrotpe, perfect fac-similes of the choicests medals, both ancient and modern, may be collected; and if the apparatus of Daguerre could be placed on board one of the ships, perfectly accurate views of the most interesting sites and monuments of classic history obtained.”
Feb. 14, 1842	147	Antique Silver and Copper Coins, from Syria, Greece, and Samos.— From the same. [Captain W. K. Latimer, U.S.N.]
	147	Antique Copper Coins, from Baiae.— <i>From the same.</i>
	149	Coins, (copper.)— <i>From Martin Johnson.</i>
	149	Medal, (copper).— <i>From Robert Graham.</i>
	149	Coin of United States, 1783.— <i>From George W. Palmer, Baltimore.</i>
	149	Coins, of United States.— <i>From James Callaghan.</i>
	149	Continental Paper Money, (1776).— <i>From Dr. T. B. J. Frye.</i>
	149	Coins, Silver and Copper, (eleven pieces.)— <i>From Wm. Shoemaker.</i>
	149	Coins, Copper, (thirty-eight pieces.)— <i>From R. B. Fowler.</i>
	149	Medal, Spanish.— <i>From George Shoemaker.</i>

Third Bulletin of the Proceedings of the National Institute for the Promotion of
Science, Washington, D.C., February, 1842, to February, 1845.

Date Received	Item No.	Description and Donor
Apr. 11, 1842	224	One Cent, coin of 1783; one Cent, coin of 1787.— <i>From William Blanchard.</i>
	224	Half Dollar, emission of 1792.— <i>From George M. Davis.</i>
May 9, 1842	233	Coin, antique.— <i>From Wm. Kemble, Esq., New York.</i>
	233	Copper Coins.— <i>From A. T. Cavis.</i>
	233	Copper Coins.— <i>From David Myerle, Kentucky.</i>
	235	From W. W. Hodgson, U.S. Consul, Tunis, March 1, 1842: Presenting one hundred ancient coins, with observations on the subject. Will forward others, &c.
June 13, 1842	236	Five Copper Coins.— <i>From Thomas Birch, Jr.</i>
	236	Seven Pieces of Copper Coin.— <i>From J. J. Greenhough.</i>
	237	Five Pieces of Coin.— <i>From A. W. Deorselling.</i>
July 11, 1842	243	Eleven pieces of Coin.— <i>From J. P. Couthouy.</i>
	243	Two Notes, (1840 and 1841.)— <i>From Charles H. James.</i>
	243	One Note, of the City of Macon, Georgia, 1840 . . .— <i>From A. C. Van Epps.</i>

Date Received	Item No.	Description and Donor
	244	Medallion head of Cabot, from a design by Chapman.— <i>From Chas. Gill.</i>
	244	— <i>From Rev. Mr. Curly. Georgetown College . . . Several Copper Coins. . . .</i>
Aug. 8, 1842	246f	A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of all Nations struck within the past century, showing their history and legal basis, and their actual weight, fineness and value, chiefly from original and recent assays: with which are incorporated Treatises on Bullion and Plate, Counterfeit Coins, Specific Gravity of Precious Metals, &c.; with recent statistics of the Production and Coinage of Gold and Silver in the world, and sundry useful Tables; by Jacob R. Eckfeldt and William E. Du Bois, assayers of the Mint of the United States, illustrated by numerous engravings of coins, executed by the medal-ruling machine, and under the direction of Joseph Saxton, of the United States Mint; Philadelphia, 1842, quarto.— <i>From the Authors.</i>
	249	From J. D. Doty, Madison, Wisconsin Territory, July 2, 1842: Sending impressions on wax, of a coin found in the ruins of Aztalan. Hopes the Institute will be able to throw light on the subject, by comparing it with other coins. Enclosing printed description of Aztalan.
	249	From Jacob R. Eckfeldt and Wm. E Du Bois, U.S. Mint, Philadelphia, July 11, 1842: Presenting a recent work by them, on coins and precious metals.
	249	From George R. Morton, M.D., Sandusky, Ohio, July 15, 1842: Asking information respecting the Institute, to which he wishes to make contributions of coins, minerals, &c. Inquiring, also, how presents are to be forwarded, and the terms of membership, &c.
Sept. 12, 1842	251	Twelve pieces of Copper Coin.— <i>From Jeremiah Sullivan.</i>
	252	Copper Coin.— <i>From E. P. Baily.</i>
	252	Copper Coins.— <i>From Henry Hardin.</i>
	252	One Copper Coin of 1822.— <i>From Joseph Boss.</i>
	252	Five Copper Coins.— <i>From G. W. Harris.</i>
	252	Two Notes, of five cents each, Philadelphia.— <i>From W. S. Walker.</i>
	253	Copper Coins.— <i>From James D. Cox.</i>
	254	. . . one Silver Coin, and four small Bank Notes.— <i>From Margaret Julien.</i>
	255	. . . A number of specimens of Continental Money . . . — <i>From Dr. John Redman Coxe, Philadelphia.</i>
	258	<i>From W. H. Smyth, Chelsea, England, August 20, 1842: Acknowledging bulletin No. 2, and forwarding his privately printed catalogue of Roman brass medals; also, specimens of impressions of the head of Hipparchus, from the Poniatowski-gem. intended as a vignette illustration of his work.</i>

Date Received	Item No.	Description and Donor
Nov. 14, 1842	262	. . . 3,289 Dollars Continental Money, (including counterfeits).— <i>From H. H. Sylvester.</i>
	262	Twenty-two Ancient Roman Coins.— <i>From W. B. Hodgson.</i>
	262f	. . . one hundred and forty-two pieces of Continental Paper Money.— <i>From John Redman Coxe, M.D.</i>
	263	Eight Copper Coins, collected on the Exploring Expedition.— <i>From David Smith.</i>
	265	Descriptive Catalogue of a Cabinet of Roman Imperial large Brass Medals, by Capt. W. H. Smyth, R. N., &c.; Bedford, 1834, quarto. . . . — <i>From Capt. W. H. Smyth, R. N.</i>
Dec. 12, 1842	271	Continental Note of forty dollars, Philadelphia, 1778.— <i>From Carr B. Thornton.</i>
	271	Two English Copper Coins.— <i>From Captain Easby.</i>
	271	Two Silver Coins of Mexico.— <i>From Rev. Mr. Richards.</i>
	271	Etudes Numismatiques et Archeologiques, par Joachim Lelewel; octava, Bruxelles, 1840. . . . — <i>From Joachim Lelewel, Bruxelles.</i>
	274	<i>From John P. Brown, First Dragoman, Constantinople, September 27, 1842:</i> Stating that he has forwarded to the Collector at Boston a series of coins of the Ottoman Empire, one hundred and ninety-three in number; and that he will forward other coins as he collects them.
	274	<i>From Joachim Lelewel, Brussels, October 19, 1842:</i> Acknowledging with thanks the honor of membership conferred upon him, and presenting several works of which he is the author.
Jan. 9, 1843	278	American Medals struck in France, presented by <i>Mr. Brent</i> . Owned originally by the American Historical Society, reported “wanting” by the curator, Dr. H. King.
Feb. 20, 1843	279	Two Continental Notes.— <i>From John T. Towers.</i>
Feb. 20, 1843	279	One Continental Note of Rhode Island.— <i>From Joseph M. Lyon.</i>
	279	Copper Coin.— <i>From Master Kendall.</i>
	279	One three cent Note of the State Bank of New York.— <i>From H. L. Ellsworth.</i>
	279	One English Copper Coin of 1738.— <i>From Joseph S. Hedges.</i>
	280	Eight Copper Coins, six Silver Coins, and eleven Tokens.— <i>From James Howks.</i>
	280	One Corporation Note of Washington City.— <i>From S. P. Franklin.</i>

Date Received	Item No.	Description and Donor
	280	One Silver Coin of Prussia, 127 years old.— <i>From Maurice Whail, Baltimore.</i>
Apr. 10, 1843	286	Box, containing a series of Coins of the Ottoman Empire (one hundred and ninety-three in number).— <i>From John P. Brown, First Dragoman of of the U.S. Legation, Constantinople.</i>
	286	Five Copper Coins.— <i>From Dr. Wm. Wallace.</i>
	287	One Silver Coin.— <i>From Edward Stubbs.</i>
	287	One German Coin.— <i>From Edward Smith, Philadelphia.</i>
	287	Two Coins.— <i>From George Henley.</i>
	287	One Silver Token, or Bank of England Dollar, George III, 1804.— <i>From George A. Davis, Washington.</i>
	287	Two Continental Notes.— <i>From George Lindweaver, Pennsylvania.</i>
June 12, 1843	302	. . . Piece of Chinese Money.— <i>From R. Bright.</i>
	302	Medals—two series; the first embracing the British Sovereigns from William the Conqueror to Queen Victoria; the second, those of France from Pharamond to Louis Phillippe; electrotyped by Professor Wyatt.— <i>From a club of members.</i>
	303	Paper Money on a Sheet.— <i>From</i>
	304f	<i>From John P. Brown, Dragoman, Chargé, &c., at Constantinople, April 12, 1843: Has forwarded to the Collector at Boston a box for the Institute, containing Turkish weapons and other things, of which he encloses a list; is collecting coins, &c.</i>
	306	<i>From B. Ogle Tayloe, Washington, May 18, 1843: Stating that two series of rare medals of French and English sovereigns, from William the Conqueror and Pharamond to Queen Victoria and Louis Phillippe, electrotyped by Professor Wyatt, have been purchased by a club of members and presented to the Institute.</i>
July 10, 1843	308	Eleven pieces of Copper Coin.— <i>From Henry Polkinhorn.</i>
Oct. 9, 1843	309	Silver Coin of Philip V of Spain, 1724.— <i>From William Anderson.</i>
	309	Coin, George III, Virginia, 1773.— <i>From John Carroll Walsh, Baltimore County, Maryland, by the hands of the Hon. Secretary of State.</i>
	309	Coins of Central America.— <i>From J. W. Simonton.</i>
	312	<i>From John Carroll Walsh, Baltimore County, Maryland, July 26, 1843: Telling him that the Secretary of State has presented the coin he sent, and his letter to the Institute.</i>

Date Received	Item No.	Description and Donor
	315	<i>From William Anderson, Washington, July 1, 1843: Presenting a coin of Philip V of Spain, 1724.</i>
	315	<i>From John Carroll Walsh, (to Secretary of State,) Baltimore County, Maryland, July 4, 1843: Presenting a coin of George III, Virginia, 1773.</i>
	317	<i>From Col. J. J. Abert, Washington, August 7, 1843: Presenting, in the name of J. W. Simonton, a package of coins of Central America.</i>
Nov. 13, 1843	319	Copper Cent of America, Washington and Independence, 1783.— <i>From Capt. J. S. Inglee.</i>
	320	. . . five pieces of Continental Paper Money.— <i>From J. Templar.</i>
	320	Copper Coin of George II, of England.— <i>From Daniel Holmes.</i>
	320	Copper Coin, with the Lord's Prayer on one side, a Crown and Halo on the other.— <i>From Peter Callan.</i>
Dec. 11, 1843	322	Two packages, containing sixty-seven Virginia Provincial Notes and twenty-four Maryland Provincial Notes.— <i>From Francis B. Mayer Baltimore.</i>
	322	Collection of rare Coins and Medals, as follows.— <i>From Charles Rhind, of New York, late U. S. Commissioner to Turkey.</i>
		1 Russian Medal, struck after the capture of Parma from the Turks.
		2 Russian Medal, on the peace with Turkey.
		3 Russian Medal, on the death of the Empress, widow of Alexander.
		4 Turkish Piastre, of the year 1143, (of the Hegira.)
		5 Silver Rouble of Russia, 1829.
		6 Coins of Russia, 1830.
		7 Para of Turkey, (hardly now to be found.)
		8 Greek Coin, of very remote antiquity.
		9 Aspre, reign of Sultan Selim, (extremely rare.)
		10 Gold Coin, Mahmoud 2d, 20 piastres.
		11 Gold Coin, Mahmoud 2d, 5 piastres.
		12 Turkish aspres and Paras, of various dynasties, (all extremely rare.)
		13 Turkish Coins, Mahmoud 2d.
	323	Three Shilling Note of New Jersey, of George III, March 25, 1776; a Cent, Washington, 1782.— <i>From John P. Bethell, M.D., Philadelphia.</i>

Date Received	Item No.	Description and Donor
	323	Copper Coin of Virginia, 1773.— <i>From J. H. Causten, Jr., M.D.</i>
	323	Three Notes, Baltimore money, 1840, sent by mail.— <i>Anonymous.</i>
	326	To J. P. Bethell, M.D., Philadelphia, November 3, 1843: Acknowledging letter, and sending a coin of 1783.
	327	<i>From D. C. Croxall, U.S. Consul, Marseilles, August 5, 1843: Enclosing a letter from Monsieur Dan. Groux, an antiquary, offering for sale a large and valuable collection of coins, medals, &c.</i>
	327	<i>From W. W. Irwin, Chargé, &c., Copenhagen, August 28, 1843: Stating that Mr. Lay, our Chargé at Stockholm, had placed in his hands for the Institute some curious Swedish coins, which he has handed to W. Gordon Reed, of Boston, by whom they will be sent to Washington.</i>
	329	<i>From Francis B. Mayer, Baltimore, October 1, 1843: Presenting two packages continental money, &c.</i>
	331	<i>From Charles Rhind, late U.S. Commissioner to Turkey, New York, November 17, 1843: Transmitting to the Hon. H. Fish, of New York, for the Institute a collection of very rare Turkish coins of which he encloses a list &c.</i>
Jan. 8, 1844	340	Forty-five Roman Coins, (forty-four silver, one bronze); fifteen mixed Coins, (fourteen silver, one bronze;) two Alexander Coins, (silver;) nine Corinthian Coins, (silver;) eight Greek Coins, (silver;) seven Egyptian Coins, Ptolemies, (one silver, six bronze.)— <i>From Gouverneur Paulding, New York.</i>
	340	Box, containing one hundred and seventy-six small Coins, of the middle age, chiefly from Norway, of fifty-six different Stamps, and many duplicates to enable the Institute to exchange, from the Numophylacium of the University of which he is Professor.— <i>From Professor C. A. Holmboe, Christiania, Norway.</i>
	341	Descriptio Ornamentorum Maximam Partem Aureorum et Numorum Saeculi VIIIvi et IXni, etc. etc. by Professor C. A. Holmboe, 1835.— . . . De Prisca Re Monetaria Norwegiae, by the same, 1841.— <i>From Professor C. A. Holmboe, Christiania, Norway.</i>
	345	<i>From Alexandre Vattemare, Paris, December 10, 1843: Explaining his system of exchanges as it concerns the National Institute, &c., forwarding a large collection of books, &c., in advance of a still larger collection he has on hand for the Institute, on which he expects expenses paid, &c.; and accompanying his letter with various printed and manuscript documents showing the steps he has been taking to promote exchanges of books, works of art, &c., &c., between France and the United States, &c.</i>

Date Received	Item No.	Description and Donor
May, 1844	347	Two large boxes, containing Books, Engravings, Medals, &c.— <i>From Alexandre Vattemare, Paris.</i>
	347	Package of Continental Money.— <i>From Thomas Pratt, Philadelphia.</i>
	347	Package of large and curious Swedish Coins.— <i>From George W. Lay, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, Stockholm.</i>
	347	Medal—Head of Alexandre Vattemare.— <i>From M. Vattemare.</i>
	347	Coin, found in the District of Columbia.— <i>From Captain R. France.</i>
	347	Box, containing a complete collection of dimes . . . — <i>From [blank]</i>
	348	Two Boxes, containing a large and valuable collection of Books, Engravings, Medals, &c., of which a list is given.— <i>From Alexandre Vattemare, Paris.</i>
	348	Descriptive Catalogue of a Cabinet of Roman Imperial large Brass Medals, by Capt. W. H. Smith, Royal Navy, &c., &c., Bedford, 1834, quarto.— <i>From Captain J. H. Aulick, U.S. Navy.</i>
	354	<i>From H. Ledyard, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, Paris, March 15, 1844: . . . stating that he has forwarded, via Havre, by the packet Duchesse d’Orleans, two more boxes, containing books, engravings, medals, &c., from M. Vattemare, &c.</i>
	355	<i>From Franklin Peale, Chief Coiner, U.S. Mint, to Mr. Spencer, Secretary of the Treasury, Philadelphia, March 28, 1844: Presenting to the Institute a full series of the national medals, forty-nine in number, of which he encloses, with the medals, a catalogue, &c.</i>
	355f	<i>List of National Medals presented to the National Institute, by Franklin Peale, Chief Coiner of the Mint of the United States, 1944.</i>

PRESIDENTIAL SERIES

The dies of this series were constructed for the Department of Indian Affairs. The medals are usually struck in silver.

No. 1. Jefferson; No. 2, Madison; No. 3, Monroe; No. 4, J. Q. Adams; No. 5, Jackson; No. 6, Van Buren; No. 7, Tyler.—Whole number, 7.

Dies of Presidents Washington, John Adams, and Harrison, have not been constructed.

MILITARY SERIES

Army.—The two first of this series are in honor of Revolutionary services, and were originally struck soon after the close of that war; the remainder in honor of services during the late war.

No. 1, Gates; No. 2, Morgan; No. 3, Scott; No. 4, Miller; No. 5, Gaines; No. 6, Porter; No. 7, Brown; No. 8, Ripley; No. 9, McComb; No. 10, Jackson; No. 11, Shelby; No. 12, Harrison; No. 13, Croghan. Whole number, 13.

Navy.—All of this series were struck in honor of services during the late war.

No. 1, Hull; No. 2, Jones; No. 3, Decatur; No. 4, Bainbridge; No. 5, Perry; No. 6, Perry's crew; No. 7, Elliott; No. 8, Burrows; No. 9, McCall; No. 10, Lawrence; No. 11, Macdonough; No. 12, Henley; No. 13, Cassin; No. 14, Warrington; No. 15, Blakeley; No. 16, Stewart; No. 17, Biddle.—Whole number, 17.

ELECTROTYPE SERIES

This series has been copied from medals, the dies of which were constructed in other countries or are lost.

The medal voted to Capt. Stewart has not been recovered.

No. 1, Washington; No. 2, Wayne; No. 3, Fleury; No. 4, Col. Washington; No. 5, Captors of André; No. 6, Howard; No. 7, Green; No. 8, Preble; No. 9, Jones.—Whole number, 9.

ADDITIONAL SERIES

No. 1, State of Pennsylvania to Perry; No. 2, Inauguration, Van Buren; No. 3, Visit to the Mint, Tyler.—Whole number, 3.

Aggregate number, 49.

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|---------------|-----|---|
| | 357 | <i>From Hon. George P. Marsh, House of Representatives, April 4, 1844: . . . inquiring . . . about the Norwegian coins presented by Professor Holmboe, of Norway.</i> |
| | 359 | <i>From Thomas Pratt, Philadelphia, April 30, 1844: Presenting a package of Continental money.</i> |
| Sept., 1844 | 365 | <i>From George Moore, U.S. Consul, Trieste, June 22, 1844: . . . presenting a collection of ancient coins, which he has shipped by the Camilla to New York.</i> |
| Dec. 9, 1844 | 369 | Box, containing one large Silver Medal; one large Copper Medal; twenty-seven Silver Coins; seventy-one Copper Coins; two Strings Chinese Cash.—Box, containing seven Coins, found at Pestum, Italy.— <i>From Mrs. Anne Izard Deas.</i> |
| Feb. 10, 1845 | 377 | Collection of Coins, Medals, &c.— <i>From Mrs. Anne Izard Deas.</i> |
| | 377 | Collection of Coins, &c., eight hundred and fifty-three Copper, thirteen Silver.— <i>From [blank]</i> |
| | 377 | Medal, Head of J. Fennimore Cooper: "The personification of honor, truth, and justice;" reverse, "To J. Fennimore Cooper, the offering of a grateful heart, for his disinterested vindication of his brother sailor, Jesse D. Elliott."— <i>From Commodore J. D. Elliott.</i> |

Date Received	Item No.	Description and Donor
	380f	<i>From A. Vattemare, Paris, December 26, 1844: Stating that he has forwarded, via Havre, a large box, containing eighty-six volumes, and thirty-one medals, presented by eminent men in France, and will forward by next packet the Journal des Savans, and other works; has sent by same opportunity a large number of volumes, engravings, medals, sc., for several States of the Union, &c., &c., &c.</i>

Fourth Bulletin of the National Institute for the Promotion of Science, Washington, D.C., February, 1845, to November, 1846.

Date Received	Item No.	Description and Donor
	485	<i>From D. Groux, New York, June 15, 1845: On the subject of his large and valuable cabinet of coins, medals, &c., offered by him for sale to the Institute.</i>
	486	<i>*From John P. Brown, U.S. Dragoman, Constantinople, September 25, 1845: Describing a series of oriental coins presented by him to the Institute, &c.</i>
	487f	<i>From C. A. Holmboe, Professor of Oriental Languages. Christiania, Norway, May 2, 1846: Transmitting to the Institution, by the hands of M. Lövenskiöld, the newly appointed minister of Sweden and Norway, a bronze medal of the late king, Charles John, in his coronation dress, at Drontheim, struck by the city of Christiania twenty-five years after the event; also, three coins struck by King Oscar, &c.</i>
	488	<i>From D. C. Groux, Philadelphia, June 6, 1846: Transmitting a complete catalogue of his collection of coins and medals, eight thousand two hundred and seventy-two in number, which he offers to the Institute at a low price.</i>
	488	<i>From M. Serope M. Alishan, Constantinople, June 17, 1846: Giving a historical account of the Armenian medals presented by him to the Institute.</i>
	489	<i>*From A. Vattemare, Paris: Transmitting a descriptive catalogue of books, engravings, statutes, medals, maps, &c., presented by ministerial departments, societies, and eminent persons in France, placed in charge of the Hon. Reverdy Johnson, U.S. Senator from Maryland.</i>
	493	<i>Box of Oriental Coins, &c.—From J. P. Brown, Dragoman, U.S. Legation, Constantinople.</i>
	494	<i>Box containing Medal of General Lafayette, by M. Gatteaux; ten large Medals, Six Medals, Five Medallions, by M. Galle.</i>
	494	<i>Two boxes, containing valuable Books, Medals, Medallions, Statues, &c., from different branches of the French Government and eminent men of France.—Sent by M. Vattemare, Paris, under the care of Hon. Reverdy Johnson, of Baltimore.</i>

Date Received	Item No.	Description and Donor
	496	Six rare Armenian Coins of the Rupinyan Kings, between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries.— <i>From S. M. Slishan, of Constantinople.</i>
	496	Medal of Charles John of Norway; three Coins of King Oscar, of Sweden.— <i>From Professor C. A. Holmboe, Norway.</i>
	496	Copper Coin, Geo. III, 1773, Virginia.— <i>From Edward Stubbs.</i>

APPENDIX IV

The National Institute

B. Varden's Catalogue

The manuscript catalogue prepared by John Varden is preserved in the Smithsonian Archives in Miscellaneous 52.

"Things belonging to the Patent Office and State Department in the National Gallery September 1, 1852." This notation in John Varden's handwriting appears on the front of a manuscript inventory with gray covers, measuring 16.5 x 19.1 cm and consisting of 18 unnumbered leaves, with entries extending from leaf 1 through leaf 12. Below, someone added, "This Catalogue was prepared by M. John Varden, Curator in the Gallery of the U.S. Patent Office, and subsequently at the Smithsonian Institution until his death." Varden never was a curator of the National Institute, but we are, nevertheless, indebted to him for the care with which he noted certain numismatic exhibits.

This catalogue concerns objects which belonged to the Patent Office and the Department of State and were on deposit only in the displays of the National Institute. The catalogue lists 6 United States and 28 foreign medals, some coins of Morocco, an American Colonial note, and some primitive media of exchange. In the following excerpts containing all data of numismatic interest in the catalogue, John Varden's spelling has been retained.

Page

- [2] A list of articles belonging to and under the controle of the Patent Office proper and now in

Page

the Hall of the National Gallery
September 1st 1852

. . .

+ A. medal of the King of Sweden (Barnadott) in cast iron

. . .

Two medals in cast iron presented by the Society of Beneficence of Cracow to the President of the United States. James Munroe

. . .

A. Case of coin of Morocco . . . [Cancellations]
Som taken by T. Hond. Nov 9th 1848

[3] . . .

Two Copper Medals of Horatio Gates
Two Do Do of Nathan Green
One Do Do of Neopolitan 1st Consul
Two Silver Do of National Congress
Two Do Do of Leapold 1st King Benges

[4] Two Silver Modals of Leapold

Two Do Do not mad[e] out
Two Do Do Regent of Belgium
Two Do D not mad[e] out
Twelve Do East side of case No. 24.
Four Do North End of case 24 small.

[10] One Specimen of Brick Tea from the Province of Yunann, China by George West June 19th 1850

[15] . . .

One Piece of Provincial Money

. . .

[17] 7. By Orders from the Coms of Patents One Medal of General Green was Exchanged with

Dr Lewis Roper of Philadelphia for a Medal of Georg Washington Decr 28th 1844. H. L. Ellsworth

[18] 10 Washington City Janr 29th 1845

Purser Bridge presents his compliments to Mr Ellsworth and sendes for the National Gallery a few curiosities from Africa and of which he mentioned to Mr Ellsworth yesterday and of which the following is a list unciantific language Native Money from Sett[ra?] Koroo Africa Made of Old brass run in moulds of sand value \$1.50. small Cowries sewd upon cloth Native Money value 25 cts. . . .

[23] . . .

35 Brick tea from the Province of Yunann. China . . . by Mr George R West June 19th 1850. Ths Ewbank Coms of Pats.

APPENDIX IV

The National Institute

C. Hunter's Guide

More comprehensive than John Varden's catalogue is a guidebook published in Washington in 1855 which describes displays arranged by the National Institute in the Patent Office Building. Alfred Hunter's guidebook is entitled *A Catalogue of the Extraordinary Curiosities of the National Institute to be seen in the Patent Office Building; also a Catalogue of the Botanical Plants, to be Seen in the Government Conservatories, Foot of the Capitol* (Washington, 1855). A later edition of Hunter's guidebook was published in Washington in 1859 under the title: *A Popular Catalogue of the Extraordinary Curiosities in the National Institute Arranged in the Building Belonging to the Patent Office*.

The following are excerpts of numismatic interest from Hunter's 1855 catalogue.

17 Opposite Case 6

A collection of Continental and Provincial money; one for 20 shillings, dated 25th April, 1776, issued by the Assembly of Pennsylvania in the name of George III, and printed by Benjamin Franklin; also what was called shin-plasters in

later times issued all through the U.S. at various times. Some of the old Continental money was redeemed, but the greater part was lost in the hands of the owners.

21 Case 9

100 to 103. Gold and zinc coins from Japan.

22 Case 10

Copper coin of the Republic of Chili. Has a single five-pointed star in the centre, is worth one and a quarter of our cents. Presented by Lieut. George W. Hammersly, Ex. Ex.

23 Case opposite 11—Indian Curiosities.

. . . prepared skins, wampum, pipes, necklace made with beads and the claws of the grizzly bear.

43 Case 28

Collection of ancient coins, collected in different parts of Europe by Thomas Munroe, while aid to the Emperor of Russia: presented by his father.

. . .

Medals by the government of Belgium; medals of the Royal Society of Sciences, Letters, and Arts of Antwerp, on the occasion of the Rubenical fetes, in honor of Rubens—one given by the National Exhibition of Fine Arts, in 1839, and intended as a national reward; one commemorative of the opening of the first section of the Belgian railroad, in 1834—by Chas. Serruys, Belgian minister.

44 Case 29

Money from Africa. Another piece of the value of \$1.50; four of these buys a good sized negro boy.

33 Case 24

. . . Medals from the Belgian government, struck on the occasion of the inauguration and completion of the great railroad. The great seal of the United States.

. . .

Box of old Spanish coins.
Medals.

Page		Page	
35	Window opposite Case 24 Provincial money of Pennsylvania, printed by Benjamin Franklin. Continental money. An engraving showing the clemency of Napoleon.	38	Case 27 Muskrat—common American kind. Formerly they constituted a large item in the northwestern fur trade, and have been sold by traders to manufacturers for 37½ cents a-piece. In some parts of the Middle States they are raised or propagated for market. The pelts of the early spring rats are the best.

APPENDIX V

Numismatic Collections in U.S. Public Libraries, 1850

The findings given in Charles Coffin Jewett's 207-page report entitled "Appendix to the Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, Containing a Report on the Public Libraries of the United States of America, January 1, 1850" was published separately in 1851 as an appendix to the *Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution . . . During the Year 1849* (Washington, 1850). In spite of an unavoidable lack of completeness this report is of great value to us.

More than 900 circulars had been sent out plus hundreds of additional letters requesting detailed information from the various libraries about their organization and their holdings including coins and medals. Many circulars remained unanswered, "others were filled out hastily, and gave but a meagre account of the collections; others, again, simply referred to some source from which authentic details might be

gathered."¹⁴² Jewett was forced, therefore, to seek additional information wherever available.

Over 40 libraries in 14 different States had collections of coins and medals: Massachusetts led with ten collections, followed by Pennsylvania with six, and New York with five collections. Some holdings were small, limited in scope, and hardly merit being designated as collections, while others contained up to 2,000 pieces. It is remarkable that St. Joseph's College in Bardstown, Kentucky, had a collection of 400 medals of each century from the 15th through the 18th. The collection of 8,000 "sulphurets" of ancient Roman and other coins in the "Libraries of the College of New Jersey" at Princeton seems to indicate a serious interest in numismatic research.

The following are items of numismatic interest excerpted from the Jewett report. Page references are to Jewett's Appendix and not the *Report*.

LIBRARY	FOUNDED	REPLY
The New Hampshire Historical Society Concord, N.H.	Mar. 13, 1823	"ancient coins" (mentioned as being in their collection already in 1838), (p. 11).
Athenaeum Library Portsmouth, N.H.	1817	"246 coins" (p. 14).
State Library Montpelier, Vt.		"thirty medals" (p. 17).
The Boston Athenaeum Library Boston, Mass.	organized 1806 incorporated 1807	"the most valuable collection of coins in that part of the country" (p. 21).

¹⁴² CHARLES C. JEWETT, "Appendix to the Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, Containing a Report on the Public Libraries of the United States of

America, January 1, 1850," in *Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution . . .* Washington, 1850, p. 5.

<i>LIBRARY</i>	<i>FOUNDED</i>	<i>REPLY</i>
Library of the General Court Boston, Mass.	Mar. 3, 1826	"6 medals" (p. 24).
Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society Boston, Mass.	organized 1791 incorporated 1794	"a few coins" (p. 26).
The American Oriental Society Boston, Mass.	"Recent"	"68 Muhammedan coins"
Harvard College Libraries Cambridge, Mass.		"Of Roman coins and medals, the library has 671 in copper, 43 in silver, and 1 in gold; of ancient coins other than Roman, 8; there are about 500 modern coins of all sorts, and 35 modern medals" (p. 33).
The Athenauem Library Nantucket, Mass.	1836	"several hundred coins of small value" (p. 38).
Library of the Essex Institute Salem, Mass.	1848	"a few coins" (p. 41).
Williams College Libraries Williamstown, Mass.	1793	"a very few coins" (p. 41).
Library of the American Anti- quarian Society Worcester, Mass.	Oct. 24, 1812	"medals" (p. 43). "The cabinet contains a collection of coins, comparatively small, but amounting to nearly 2,000 pieces, of which, however, many are duplicates. Among them is a considerable number of coins of the Roman Empire, and a few said to be of still more remote antiquity. It is believed there are specimens of nearly all the pieces of money ever struck in the pres- ent United States" (p. 45).
Library of the College of the Holy Cross Worcester, Mass.	1843	"650 coins and medals" (p. 47).
Wesleyan University Libraries Middletown, Conn.	1831	"coins" (p. 68).

<i>LIBRARY</i>	<i>FOUNDED</i>	<i>REPLY</i>
State Library, Department of the Miscellaneous Library Albany, N.Y.	1818	“Medals 25” (p. 73). “The catalogue published in 1846 is in two parts, paged separately. . . . Part seventh contains a catalogue of works of art, globes, atlases, maps, plans, paintings, engravings, busts, and medals (pages 909–950.)” (pp. 75f).
The Library of the United States Naval Lyceum Brooklyn, N.Y.	1833	“531 coins, 49 medals” (p. 79).
The New York Society Library New York, N.Y.	Apr. 2, 1754	“a small but beautiful collection of bronze medals . . . and one set of Waterloo medals, fifty in number.” (pp. 87f).
Library of the New York Historical Society New York, N.Y.	1804	“Medals, about 200 coins, about 1,400” (p. 93).
Columbia College Library New York, N.Y.	1757	“a series of bronze medals illustrative of the Elgin marbles” (p. 94).
College Library Burlington, N.J.	1846	“several hundred coins” (p. 105).
Libraries of the College of New Jersey Princeton, N.J.	1755	“a small one [collection] of medals and coins, and has lately received more than 8,000 sulphurets—fac-similes of ancient Roman and other coins” (p. 106).
The Easton Library Easton, Pa.	1811	“a small number of coins”
Pennsylvania College Libraries Gettysburg, Pa.	1832	“about 50 medals, and 400 or 500 coins.” (p. 109).
The Library Company and the Loganian Library Philadelphia, Pa.	July 1, 1731	“In 1752, ‘a noble present of ancient medals’ was received through Mr. Peters from Mr. Gray, member of Parliament for Col- chester.” (p. 115).

		<p>“In October, 1773, several specimens of minerals and 53 curious coins, were presented by Edward Pole. Unfortunately, the secretary, in reporting the gift, was obliged to add the following memorandum: ‘but the library being entered by some thief (as supposed) last night, he carried off all the coins and tokens, together with some change which was left in the drawer.’ Mr. Pole, however, received the thanks of the directors, and the articles were advertised, but never recovered.” (p. 117).</p>
Library of the American Philosophical Society Philadelphia, Pa.	1742	<p>“The society has also an ‘extensive collection of manuscripts, maps, charts, and engravings, and, in its cabinet, medals, coins, &c.’ The precise number ‘cannot readily be given.’ ” (p. 123).</p>
The Library of the Historical Society Philadelphia, Pa.	1825	<p>“collections of medals and coins.” (p. 129).</p>
The Chester County Cabinet of Natural Sciences Westchester, Pa.	Mar. 1826	<p>“a very few engravings and medals, and about 400 coins, (300 copper and 100 silver,), among which are 86 silver and 59 copper coins from 21 different governments, collected during the circumnavigating cruise of the United States ship Peacock, in 1835-’37, by the late Lieutenant Darlington, United States Navy, and presented by him.” (pp. 130f).</p>
Baltimore Female College Baltimore, Md.	1850	<p>“a cabinet of ancient and modern coins. Of ancient coins there are more than 500. (See catalogue of the B. F. C. for 1850).” (p. 136).</p>
The Library of Congress Washington, D.C.	Apr. 24, 1800	<p>“a series of medals designed by Denon and executed by order of the French government commemorative of events during the reign of Napoleon . . .” (p. 138).</p>
The Library of the War Department, Washington Washington, D.C.	1832	<p>“all the government medals, (50 or 60 in number,) . . .” (p. 140).</p>

<i>LIBRARY</i>	<i>FOUNDED</i>	<i>REPLY</i>
The National Institute for the Promotion of Science Washington, D.C.	May 1840	"many medals, coins, &c." (p. 142).
Emory and Henry College Libraries Emory, Washington County, Va.	1839	"63 coins" (p. 144).
The Virginia Historical and Philosophical Society Richmond, Va.	Dec. 29, 1831	"a few medals, coins" (p. 147).
Franklin College Libraries Athens, Georgia	1831	"a medal struck in commemoration of the victory at Saratoga, 3 gold, 94 silver, and 249 copper coins, ancient and modern." (p. 156).
Wesleyan Female College Library Macon, Ga.	Nov. 1837	"a few valuable ancient coins" (p. 157).
The Franklin Society Mobile, Ala.	Jan. 17, 1835	"a few coins" (p. 159).
Oakland College Claiborne County, Miss.	1831	"200 medals and coins" (p. 161).
St. Joseph's College Bardstown, Ky.	1824	"It has also about 400 medals of the 15th' 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, and about 200 modern coins." (p. 165).
Georgetown College Libraries Georgetown, Ky.	1837	"It has also 64 medals and 676 coins, com prising those of Burmah, Siam, Hindostan' the East India Company, South America, Dutch East Indies, &c." (p. 166).
Ohio Wesleyan University Delaware, Ohio	1845	"curious coins" (p. 171).

APPENDIX VI

Smithsonian Publications of Numismatic Interest, 1860–1907

A Note on the Numismatic Library

Papers of numismatic interest published during the years from 1860 to 1907 in the Smithsonian's *Annual Reports* are listed below in chronological order. In addition, there is a brief account of the condition of the numismatic library in 1888 and in 1925.

MORLOT, A. "General Views on Archeology." Transl. by Philip Harry. Pp. 284–343 in the *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 1860* (Washington, 1860). Greek coins are mentioned on pp. 328f and 337 in connection with chronological problems.

POLLOCK, JAMES. "A Brief Account of the Processes Employed in the Assay of Gold and Silver Coins at the Mint of the United States." Pp. 422–428 in the *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 1868* (Washington, 1869).

RAU, CHARLES. "Ancient Aboriginal Trade in North America." Pp. 348–394 in the *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 1872* (Washington, 1873). Special mention is made of "wampum" (pp. 379–383) and trade in copper (p. 355). This is an enlarged and improved version of a paper first published in German in *Archiv für Anthropologie*, vol. 5 (Braunschweig, 1872).

MASON, OTIS T. "The Leipzig Museum of Ethnology." Pp. 390–410 in the *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 1873* (Washington, 1874). Objects of cultural-historical nature are listed in the order of their development. Thus, numismatics appears fairly well defined (pp. 408f): "Money—Coin—Substitutes for coin—Paper money—Certificates of indebtedness—Medals, badges, and other outer decorations."

RAU, CHARLES. "The Stock-in-Trade of an Aboriginal Lapidary." Pp. 291–298 in the *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 1877* (Washington, 1878).

MASON, OTIS. "The Ray Collection from Hupa Reservation." Pp. 205–240 in part 1 of the *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 1886* (Washington, 1889). This paper

contains a section on "Money and its Uses" (pp. 231–234).

STEARNS, ROBERT E. C. "Ethno-Conchology—A Study of Primitive Money." Pp. 297–334 + 9 plates in part 2 of the *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 1887* (Report of the U.S. National Museum) (Washington, 1889). This paper is still considered basic for the study of shell money.

GOWLAND, W. "The Art of Casting Bronze in Japan." Pp. 609–651 in the *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 1894* (Washington, 1896). This paper was first published in the *Journal of the Society of Arts*, no. 2215, vol. 43, May 3, 1895. Gowland discusses the earliest coinage of Japan (p. 614) and gives the analysis of late 17th-century coins based on the average composition of 7,600 pieces melted together (p. 619). In this connection, he mentions the conversion of Buddhist statues into coins during the 15th and 17th centuries. Of particular interest is plate 70 illustrating molding and casting techniques in use at the old mint in Edo around 1835.

WILSON, THOMAS. "The Swastika, the Earliest Known Symbol, and Its Migrations; With Observations on the Migration of Certain Industries in Prehistoric Times." Pp. 757–1011 in the *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 1894* (Washington, 1896). This paper contains a special discussion of the swastika on ancient coins (pp. 871–879, figs. 224–236, and pl. 9).

RHEES, WILLIAM J. *Visitor's Guide to the Smithsonian Institution and U.S. National Museum in Washington, D.C.* (Washington, n.d., ca. 1890). Special emphasis is placed in the guidebook on a tally stick, used by the Court of Exchequer of England, with one full page on the subject (p. 34). See also pp. 33 and 38.

HOFFMAN, WALTER JAMES. "The Graphic Art of the Eskimos." Pp. 749–968 in the *Annual Report of the*

Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 1895 (Report of the U.S. National Museum) (Washington, 1897). This unusual and rather broadly cast study discusses the coinage of the ancient Britons and ancient trade routes (pp. 818-824 and pls. 46-57).

ADLER, CYRUS and CASANOWICZ, I. M. "Biblical Antiquities: A Description of the Exhibit at the Cotton States International Exposition, Atlanta, 1895." Pp. 943-1023 + 46 plates in the *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 1896* (Report of the U.S. National Museum) (Washington, 1898). This paper contains a special discussion of "A Selection of the Coins of the Bible Lands" (pp. 982-988 and pl. 9).

WHITE, CHARLES A. "The Archaic Monetary Terms of the United States." *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections*, vol. 50, part 1, no. 1714. (Washington, 1907).

BECKWITH, PAUL EDMOND. "Indian Peace Medals; French, Canadian, British, and Medals of the United States." Pp. 829-836 in part 1 of *Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico* (Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 30). (Washington:

Smithsonian Institution, 1907).

Library

Numismatics as a museum discipline demands a complete reference library. In the early days, however, since the museum had no specialized staff of numismatists, very little was done to build up an adequate library. In the 1880s a beginning was made to obtain various periodicals and 13 numismatic publications were received in 1888.¹⁴³ Unfortunately, this beginning was not pursued as a long-range project for the museum.

In 1925 the numismatic library was substantially increased with the addition of about 800 volumes and pamphlets from the old Philadelphia Mint cabinet.¹⁴⁴ No systematic acquisitions were made, however, and current publications, periodicals, and standard references were acquired only sporadically. Since 1956 an increased flow of books and periodicals has come in, mainly through donations. Although the library still has serious gaps, the Smithsonian numismatic library ranks among the leading specialized libraries in this country.

APPENDIX VII

Gift of Gold Coins from Japan to President U. S. Grant

A collection of gold and silver coins from Japan was given to President Grant by the Japanese Government "as a slight return for [his] liberality and thoughtfulness in sending to His Imperial Majesty one of [his] blooded horses." The coin collection was presented later to the United States Government by Mrs. Julia Dent Grant and Mr. W. H. Vanderbilt. President Arthur's message to Congress on February 4, 1885,¹⁴⁵ concerning Mrs. Grant's offer to give the Government the testimonials lately belonging to General Grant, contains a schedule of these objects. In this schedule the Japanese collection is mentioned on page 3: "Collection of coin (Japanese). This is the only complete set, except one which is in the Japanese treasury. Seven of these pieces cost \$5,000. This set was presented by the Government of Japan." The collection was accepted by a resolution of Congress which became law on August 5, 1886. (Mr. Isao Gunji of the Economic Research Dept. of the Bank of

Japan recently expressed the opinion that some of these pieces were made during the 18th century for collectors.)

The only known illustrations of this collection are in William H. Allen's *The American Civil War Book and Grant Album* published in 1894.

The following is a transcription of data from original correspondence on file in the Registrar's office, United States National Museum.

Department of Colonization.
Tokio, Japan December 2. 1880.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that His Imperial Majesty, having highly appreciated the swiftness and beauty of the stallion, of your own breeding, which had been kindly presented by you, has ordered me to make use of him for breeding, in order to improve our native horses, and that the stallion has been sent to the Agricultural farm at Narwey in the Province Oohima, in the Island of Gesso, for that purpose. I have no doubt that fine stock will soon follow in abundance.

It affords me great pleasure to present you certain articles mentioned in the enclosed list, as a token of our appreciation

¹⁴³ *SI Report*, 1888, pp. 33, 36.

¹⁴⁴ *USNM Report*, 1925, p. 109.

¹⁴⁵ Exec. Doc. No. 60.

of your courtesy, and I shall feel much gratified if you will be pleased to accept them.

Availing myself of this opportunity to express my best wishes for your good health and prosperity,

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obt. Servant,
Kuroda Kiyotaka
Minister of Colonization

General U.S. Grant

Legation of Japan
Washington
January 7, 1881.

My Dear Sir:

I have the honor to state that a box has reached the Legation this morning, which contains a small collection of the ancient Coins of Japan, intended as a present for you, from the Department of Colonization, and as a slight return for you liberality and thoughtfulness in sending to His Imperial Majesty one of your blooded horses. It affords me great pleasure to forward the same to your address by Adam's Express today, and to enclose a letter from General Kuroda, together with its translation and a description of the coins.

I avail myself of this occasion to present to you and Mrs Grant, the compliments of the season and best wishes.

Very Respectfully and Sincerely yours,
Yoshida Kiyonari

General U.S. Grant

List of Old Coins
Presented to
General U.S. Grant

No. 1. Yudzuriha Ban.

“ 2. Higashiyama Hówò Maru Ooban.

“ 3. Kiyosu Ooban.
“ 4. Kameyama Ooban.
“ 5. Yoshi Mame Ban.
“ 6. Taiko Fukjuban.
“ 7. Tasima Ooban.

Notes.

No. 1. Was made during the reign of the Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimasa in the years Hotok and Kotok—1450–54 A.D.—and it is said that the coins were used as rewards.

No. 2. Was made in the Ginkaku (Silver Palace) at Higashiyama in the Province of Yamashiro, by the Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimasa in the year Bun Mei—1480 A.D.

No. 3. Was made by Udaijin Ota Nobunaga in the year Yeiroku—1559 A.D. when he was the Ruler of Kiyosu in the Province of Owari, and the coins were distributed among his retainers for war-like exploits.

No. 4. Is said to have been made for war purposes by Akechi Mitsuhide the ruler of Kameyama—in the Tenth year of Tensho—1582 A.D.—in the Province of Tanba.

No. 5. Is said to have been made for prizes by Kikkawa Motoharu, the ruler of Idzumo province, in the years Tensho—1570–80 A.D.

No. 6. Is said to have been made by Kwanbaku Foyotomi Hideyoshi in the years Tensho and Keicho—1580–90 A.D. and was used as a high prize.

No. 7. Was made in the Province of Tasima, after the end of the Kiushu war by Kwanbaku Foyotomi Hideyoshi in the 14th and 15th years of Tensho—1586–87—A.D. and was distributed among the soldiers who had distinguished themselves.

APPENDIX VIII

The United States Mint Collection

The Mint cabinet was officially started in June 1838, but its history goes back to the beginning of the Mint in 1792–1793. The Chief Coiner, Adam Eckfeldt (fig. 12), connected with the Mint since its inception, “led as well by his own taste as by the expectation that a conservatory would some day be established, took pains to preserve master-coins of the different annual issues of the mint, and to retain some of the finest foreign specimens, as they appeared in deposit for recoinage.”¹⁴⁶ Among the coins deposited by Adam Eckfeldt was, for instance, the famous Brasher Doubloon (fig. 15). When a special annual appropriation was instituted for this purpose by Congress in

1838, the collection took permanent form and grew continuously.

The eagerness of the Mint assayers William E. Du Bois (fig. 13) and Jacob R. Eckfeldt to complete the Mint collection contributed to its continued

¹⁴⁶ WILLIAM E. DU BOIS, *Pledges of History. A Brief Account of the Collection of Coins Belonging to the Mint of the United States, More Particularly the Antique Specimens*, Philadelphia, 1846, pp. 6f. A “Second edition, with additions” appeared as an appendix to JACOB R. ECKFELDT and WILLIAM E. DU BOIS, *New Varieties of Gold and Silver Coins* . . . New York, 1851. See there the passage quoted by us, pp. 29f. It was reprinted under the title “Collection of Specimen Coins at the Mint, Philadelphia” in *The Numismatist* (1937), vol. 50, pp. 101f.

growth. Du Bois in his *Pledges of History* (1846, second edition 1851) mentions that after the collection was officially established in June 1838, it "has gone on in a continual augmentation . . . specimens of new coinage, domestic or foreign, must be added as they appear." In the same volume Du Bois also describes the early Mint exhibit, located at that time at 17th and Spring Gardens Streets in Philadelphia.

The suite of apartments in the Mint, appropriated to the exhibition of coins, ores, and national medals, occupies the front of the building in the second story, and measures sixteen feet wide by fifty-four feet long. Originally there were three rooms, connecting with each other by folding-doors; the removal of these has made one large saloon, with recesses, very commodious and suitable for the use to which it is applied. The eastern and western rooms are of uniform size and construction; the central one has a dome and skylight, supported by four columns; with a corresponding window in its floor (protected by a railing) to light the hall of entrance below.

The ancient coins are displayed in eight cases, mitred in pairs, and placed erect against the walls in the wide doorways and the middle room. The modern coins are variously arranged; part (including all those of the United States) being in a nearly level case which surrounds the railing above mentioned; and part being in upright cases, disposed along the walls of the middle and west rooms. The ores, minerals, and metallic alloys, are placed in the west room; in the eastern are shown the national and other medals, and the fine beams used for the adjustment of weights. All the cases are fronted with glass, and besides allowing an inspection of every specimen, present an agreeable coup d'oeil on entering the room, especially by the middle door.

Visitors are admitted in prescribed hours, if attended by an officer or conductor of the institution.

Data about the growth of the Philadelphia Mint collection may be gleaned from Mint records preserved in the National Archives as well as from occasional published notes and reports. Some early illustrations of coins from the cabinet are contained in Jacob R. Eckfeldt and William E. Du Bois' *A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations, Struck Within the Past Century* (Philadelphia, 1842). The illustrations of coins were executed by the medal-ruling machine invented by Christian Gobrecht and perfected by Joseph Saxton. The volume has 16 plates, but not all coins illustrated are from the Mint cabinet. The first full catalogue of the collection appeared in 1860 under

the direction of James Ross Snowden. Entitled *A Description of Ancient and Modern-Coins, in the Cabinet Collection at the Mint of the United States* (Philadelphia, 1860), it was prepared by George Bull, in charge of the cabinet, with the advice and assistance of Du Bois, at that time assistant assayer and curator of the cabinet. In 1861 Snowden published *the Medallic Memorials of Washington in the Mint of the United States*. He was very much interested in this particular section of the cabinet and made every effort to enlarge it.

Notes about additions to the collections were published by W. E. Du Bois in "The United States Mint Cabinet,"¹⁴⁷ where he mentions that "the whole number of coins and medals at this time [1874] is 6,484," and in "Recent Additions to the Mint Cabinet."¹⁴⁸ Reports in later years were given by Patterson Du Bois.¹⁴⁹ A design by D. A. Schuler (fig. 9) dated 1885 and published in A. M. Smith's *Visitor's Guide and History of the United States Mint, Philadelphia, Pa.* gives a view of the exhibits of that period.¹⁵⁰ In connection with Du Bois' earlier description, it renders a general idea of the numismatic displays at the Mint during the 19th century. In 1891, R. A. McClure, curator of the Mint collection, prepared *An Index to the Coins and Medals of the Cabinet of the Mint of the United States at Philadelphia*, published by the Superintendent of the Mint, O. C. Bobyshell; and in 1894 the *Philadelphia Telegraph* reported on "Late Additions" to the Mint cabinet: "8,000 coins were on display, the case of current coins stands to the left of the museum door, opposite the Curator's desk."¹⁵¹

With the completion of a new mint in Philadelphia in 1902, described as "the finest building ever constructed for coinage purposes in the world," the cabinet was moved to the new location. It was reinstalled there in sumptuous surroundings and in new, rather ponderous exhibit cases. An illustration (fig. 10) in the Director's report shows a picture of the new displays.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁷ *American Journal of Numismatics* (1874), vol. 8, p. 65.

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid.* (1877), vol. 11, pp. 86-88.

¹⁴⁹ "Compte Rendu," *ibid.* (1884), vol. 18, pp. 89-91; "Hog Money, etc.," *ibid.* (1885), vol. 19, pp. 66f.

¹⁵⁰ Reprinted from *New Varieties of Gold and Silver Coins* by JACOB R. ECKFELDT and WILLIAM E. DU BOIS (Assayers of the Mint, 1851), New York, 1851, p. 29.

¹⁵¹ Reprinted in *The Numismatist* (1894), vol. 7, pp. 158-162.

¹⁵² *Annual Report of the Director of the Mint . . . 1902*, Washington, 1902, plate at p. 76.

The first and only formally recognized curator of the Mint collection was Dr. Thomas Louis Comparette appointed to the post in 1905.¹⁵³ (Various other people had been delegated to take care of the Cabinet but without the title curator.) Comparette immediately made plans for expansion and improvement of the Mint collection. "The most pressing needs appear to be a new catalogue and a rearrangement of the coins in the cases," according to his comprehensive report about the numismatic collection.¹⁵⁴ In the same report he mentions, referring to the past, "An apparent tendency to give undue preference to rather expensive rarities for exhibitions as 'show pieces' has resulted in restricting the numerical development of the collection, in the increase of certain series at the expense of others, and especially in the neglect of the coins of lower denomination, which are much less attractive to the average visitor but necessary in order to gain a proper idea of the complete coinage of a given country or period and highly valued by the better informed. The more serious purpose better harmonizes with what is felt to be the worthier function of the collection, for the attitude of the cabinet has been from the first that of an educational institution."¹⁵⁵

The preparation of the catalogue took Comparette about seven years; it appeared in 1912 comprising 634 pages and 15 plates. In 1914 a so-called "third edition" followed with the same number of plates but expanded through additions to 694 pages.¹⁵⁶ A most useful 106-page *Guide to the Numismatic Collection of the Mint of The United States at Philadelphia, Pa.* was published in 1913. In addition to the catalogue Dr. Comparette

published various papers, particularly in the field of ancient numismatics.¹⁵⁷

While in charge of the Mint cabinet Comparette expended considerable time and effort to mobilize support for the improvement of the collection. He attempted to obtain the support of President Theodore Roosevelt to secure for the cabinet the H. C. Hoskier collection of Greek and Roman coins when the owners who lived in South Orange, New Jersey, offered it for sale.¹⁵⁸ Comparette succeeded in obtaining the support of the Assay Commission of 1909: Their committee on resolutions passed a motion recommending that the coin collection be improved and suggested the striking of artistic medals with the understanding that the profits from their sale should benefit the Mint collection.¹⁵⁹ Similar resolutions were passed by the annual Assay Commissions meeting in subsequent years.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁷ THOMAS LOUIS COMPARETTE: "Inaccurate Tables of Roman Coins in American Latin Grammars," *American Journal of Numismatics* (1912), vol. 46, pp. 125-129; "Debasement of the Silver Coinage under the Emperor Nero," *American Journal of Numismatics* (1913) (New York, 1914), vol. 47, pp. 131-141; "Aes signatum," *American Journal of Numismatics* (1918) (New York, 1919), vol. 52, pp. 1-61, pls. 1-8; "The Decadrachms of Syracuse," *The Numismatist* (1913), vol. 26, pp. 57-64; "The First United States Mint," *The Numismatist* (1910), vol. 23, pp. 2-5, 39-42; "'La Risposta'—'Territorial' vs 'Private,'" *The Numismatist* (1910), vol. 23, pp. 9-10; "Society, not State, Introduced Coinage," *The Numismatist* (1910), vol. 23, pp. 43-45; "A Brief Study of the Medal, its Origin and Early Development," *The Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, Proceedings* (1907-1909), pp. 91-113; "Coins and Medals in the United States in 1913," *American Journal of Numismatics* (1913) (New York, 1914), vol. 47, pp. 142-158, pls. 7-12; "Medals Engraved in the United States of America in the Year 1914," *American Journal of Numismatics* (1914) (New York, 1915), vol. 48, pp. 205-218, pls. 27-31; "Coins and Medals Engraved in the United States of America in the Year 1915," *American Journal of Numismatics* (1915) (New York, 1916), vol. 49, pp. 199-209, pls. 23-27.

¹⁵⁸ His efforts were, however, in vain: The Hoskier Collection was sold on auction by Dr. Jacob Hirsch in Munich in 1907; see the latter's catalogue no. XX.

¹⁵⁹ Reported under the title "For the Improvement of the National Coin Collection" in *The Numismatist* (1909), vol. 22, pp. 144f. Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions was the well-known numismatist Farran Zerbe, members were Ambrose Swazey, Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow, and others. The resolution was supported by the Director of the Mint, Frank A. Leach, the Chief of the Secret Service, John E. Wilkie, and Congressman Ira W. Wood.

¹⁶⁰ "The Annual Assay Commission. Recommendation for the Support of the Mint Cabinet," *The Numismatist* (1910), vol. 23, pp. 179f; *Proceedings of the Assay Commission of 1912* . . . pp. 17f.; *Annual Report of the Director of the Mint* . . . 1915, p. 56; op. cit., 1916, p. 42; op. cit. 1917, p. 27; op. cit., 1918, p. 38.

¹⁵³ Born in Dekalb County, Indiana, in 1868, Comparette was educated at the University of Wooster, Ohio. He continued his studies at the Universities of Michigan, Chicago, finally Halle and Berlin. Comparette became also a member of the American School of Antiquities, Rome. From 1893 to 1897 he was professor of Greek and Latin at the Texas Christian University at Waco, Texas, then served as assistant in Latin at the University of Missouri until 1905. For further information, see *The Numismatist* (1922), vol. 35, pp. 377f.

¹⁵⁴ "Numismatic Collection," pp. 65-75 in the *Annual Report of the Director of the Mint* . . . 1905. Reprinted under the title "On the Utility of a Cabinet of Historic Coins" in *The Numismatist* (1906), vol. 19, pp. 78-79, 103-111, 146.

¹⁵⁵ *Annual Report of the Director of the Mint* . . . 1905, p. 65; *The Numismatist* (1906) vol. 19, p. 78.

¹⁵⁶ *Catalogue of Coins, Tokens, and Medals in the Numismatic Collection of the Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.*, Washington, 1912; "3rd edition," 1914.

Reports about the growth of the collection were incorporated in the Director's *Annual Report* from 1910 through 1921 under the title "The State of the Numismatic Collection" (after 1917, "The Progress of the Numismatic Collection").¹⁶¹ All these activities ended with Dr. Comparette's sudden death on July 3, 1922.

The idea of the transfer of the collection to Washington had been proposed as early as 1916 by Dr. George F. Kunz of New York, President of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society and one of the most active members of the American Numismatic Society. He discussed the idea with Dr. Charles D. Walcott, Secretary of the Smithsonian, and with the Director of the Mint, Robert W. Woolley, on April 4, 1916. The following documents trace the transfer of the Mint Collection to the Smithsonian Institution.

New York City,
April 6, 1916.
401 5th Avenue.

Hon. Robert W. Woolley,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Woolley:

Appropos of our conversation of Tuesday, I am now writing the following letter:

In view of the fact that in a number of foreign countries, a great national collection of coins is in the National Museum and in the national capital, it occurred to me that if the United States Government transferred the majority of the coins from the Mint in Philadelphia to the United States National Museum and had it distinctly known that a great national collection was being formed there, it would undoubtedly be enriched by gifts and legacies from time to time. The Curator in charge could be transferred from the Mint to the National Museum.

The collection there would be more accessible to the Director of the Mint and, undoubtedly, would be of considerable value to him; the collection at present is more or less inaccessible. A greater number of visitors would see it at the National Museum and the study of coins and coinage, which has had great bearing upon Art in history, would be materially advanced.

I had the pleasure of dining with Director Walcott of the United States National Museum on Tuesday, the 4th, and

spoke to him of the possibility of a coin collection at the Museum. I think that he seemed interested.

There are a number of large collections of coins in the United States and with the example of Mr. Freer giving paintings, there may be something doing in the coin line.

Believe me,

Very truly yours,
George F. Kunz

The lack of a curator after the death of Dr. Comparette and the closing of the Mint to the public because of a robbery at the Denver Mint (committed after thieves obtained information through a previous visit) were among the factors that persuaded the Secretary of the Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, to decide to transfer the collection to the National Museum in Washington, and he so notified Secretary Walcott:

Washington
February 8, 1923.

Hon. Charles D. Walcott,
Secretary, Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C.

My dear Dr. Walcott:

It has recently been deemed advisable in the interest of safety to close the United States Mints to visitors. As you are aware, there is a large numismatic collection in the Mint at Philadelphia. Since the Mint is to be permanently closed to visitors the inspection of the collection by the public is no longer possible. There is an important and very beautiful selection of coins, tokens and medals, perhaps the largest and most complete numismatic collection owned by the Government. The logical place for this collection would seem to be in the National Museum in Washington, and I am writing to ask if you would consider it feasible to have the collection transferred there. In case you consider the undertaking favorably may I suggest that you designate a representative of the National Museum to inspect the collection in order that you may be advised as to its scope and importance, and as to other details involved in the proposed transfer.

The Curator of the Mint at Philadelphia died several months ago, but we have made no special effort to fill the position for the reason that the removal of the collection to Washington has been tentatively considered for some time.

The collection is under the jurisdiction of the Director of the Mint, and I shall be glad to instruct that officer to place before you all available information in regard to it. I am enclosing a Catalogue of the coins, tokens and medals which may be of interest to you in considering the proposed transfer of the collection for the Mint to the National Museum.

Very truly yours,
A. W. Mellon
Secretary of the Treasury.

¹⁶¹ *Annual Report of the Director of the Mint . . . 1911*, pp. 19f.; op. cit., 1912, p. 18; op. cit., 1913, pp. 23f.; op. cit., 1914, pp. 28f.; op. cit., 1915, pp. 29f.; op. cit., 1916, p. 24; op. cit., 1917, p. 34 ("The Progress of the Numismatic Collection"); op. cit., 1918, p. 33; op. cit., 1919, p. 33; op. cit., 1920, p. 42; op. cit., 1921, pp. 33f.

The Secretary of the Smithsonian acknowledged Andrew Mellon's letter on February 12 and delegated Mr. W. de C. Ravenel, Director of the Museum, and T. T. Belote, curator of history, to discuss the necessary arrangements for the transfer.

My dear Mr. Mellon:—

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of February 8, concerning the transfer to the United States National Museum of the numismatic collection at present in the Philadelphia Mint, and to assure you of my deepest interest in the safeguarding and exhibition for the benefit of the public of this exceptionally important and valuable collection. The addition of the material to the collection of the same character already in the custody of the Museum would render available to those interested in the science of Numismatics an exhibition collection comparable to those shown in the other great museums of the world which have recognized the importance of this subject. As a part of the collections already in the National Museum representing the more general subject of History, with which Numismatics is closely allied, the material from Philadelphia when installed in the Museum would be seen by the thousands of visitors annually from all over the United States who are attracted to the Museum by the variety and scientific and popular importance of its exhibits.

In accordance with your suggestion, therefore, it will give me much pleasure to authorize Mr. W. de C. Ravenel, the Director of the Museum, and Mr. T. T. Belote, Curator of History, who is thoroughly experienced in numismatic work to inspect the collection and confer with the proper officials of your Department regarding the transfer.

Very truly yours,
Charles D. Walcott
Secretary.

The Honorable A. W. Mellon,
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D.C.

Formal acceptance of the collection by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution followed on February 19:

My dear Mr. Mellon:—

Referring to my letter of February 12, concerning the numismatic collection now in the Philadelphia Mint, as to the conference between Miss O'Reilly, Acting Director of the Mint, and Mr. T. T. Belote of the Museum staff, I now take pleasure in advising you that the National Museum is very glad to accept this splendid collection and will be pleased to receive it whenever it is convenient for the officials of the Mint to have it packed and forwarded.

A representative of the Museum will visit Philadelphia to inspect the cases in which the collection is now installed with a view to determining whether they will be serviceable to the Museum.

In this connection I wish to assure you of my appreciation of your thoughtful interest in making such an important contribution to the national collections.

Very truly yours,
C. D. Walcott
Secretary.

The Honorable A. W. Mellon,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D.C.

On February 28, Theodore T. Belote was authorized to inspect the numismatic collection at the Mint in order to plan for its packing and transportation to the National Museum. He spent March 6 and 7 there and reported on March 8 to Miss M. M. O'Reilly, acting director of the Mint, his findings and recommendations. The following passages are of interest: "the collection . . . was partly in exhibition cases and partly in wooden cabinets in the office of the curator. The entire collection was counted by the lady in charge, Miss Anna Tibbles, and myself with the exception of a collection of United States war service badges, which Miss Tibbles informed me had already been completely listed, and a large amount of European emergency currency of comparative small intrinsic value.

"The specimens in the exhibition cases were counted by case and country and two copies of the list were made one of which was entrusted to Miss Tibbles and one retained by myself. The specimens in the storage cabinets were counted by trays."

He suggested that the coins "be placed in envelopes of suitable size with the small labels which they now bear, then grouped in boxes of strong paper, about twelve by twelve by fourteen inches in size, and finally inclosed in a series of stout wooden boxes of convenient size for shipping such heavy material by express. The medals which are not so liable to injury in transit as the coins may be placed in envelopes of a good quality and packed directly in wooden boxes for shipment. Copies of those sections of the lists prepared by Miss Tibbles and myself referring to the contents of the various boxes may be packed with the coins to which they refer."

On the same date, Theodore T. Belote, forwarding to Ravenel his report to Miss O'Reilly, made some additional remarks that should be quoted here:

I found that the size and importance of the collection has been very materially increased since my last visit to the Mint in Philadelphia and that the acceptance of this collection will place the National Museum in the front

rank of the museums of the world so far as the science of numismatics is concerned. . . .

In this connection special attention should be given to the offer of the Treasury Department to transfer to the Museum the exhibition cases in which the collection is now contained. These cases were specially designed for numismatic material and are the safest of any types of such cases I have ever seen. The woodwork is heavy mahogany, the glass is a fine quality of heavy plate, and each case is furnished with a unique double locking device which renders it apparently as safe as it is possible to construct such a case. The cases are at present arranged against the walls of an octagonal room or rotunda and are of three sizes all of the same general type. They consist of the following:

Twelve wall cases each six feet long;

Fourteen cases, each four feet long, built tangent to a circle; and fourteen cases, each two feet long, built on the interior of the circle.

All these are about six feet high with an upright portion against the wall and a horizontal section extending out from the wall each of these portions giving an exhibition space of about twenty-four inches extending the length of the case. The interiors of these cases are arranged for the exhibition of numismatic material in an artistic and serviceable manner.

In addition to the cases described above the office of the former curator of the collection in the Mint contains two oak cabinets with combination locks and shallow trays for coins. The smaller of these two cabinets is 24" x 36" x 48"; the larger is 24" x 52" [? illegible] x 72". They would afford space for the coins of lesser value during the period when they were not on exhibition and could not be duplicated now by any cabinet maker for less than thousands of dollars.

The office of the curator also contains two large oak book cases containing a number of very rare and expensive works on the subject of numismatics . . . which are now offered to us with the collection of coins and medals. . . . These should certainly be accepted as they will be priceless aids to the arrangement of the collection in the National Museum.

The fact that the transfer of this collection to Washington will mean the shifting of the numismatic center of gravity, so to speak, in the United States from Philadelphia to Washington, is very keenly felt by the higher officials of the Mint . . . who seem to be all Philadelphians . . . and they did not hesitate to express to me their distinct opposition to this action on the part of the Treasury Department and some of them even went so far as to hint that a propaganda would be initiated to have the process reversed.

Pressure did indeed build up in Philadelphia against the proposed transfer. The *Philadelphia Ledger* of March 31 expressed great concern "that the Philadelphia Mint's invaluable collections of coins, medals and

tokens is being boxed, ready for shipment to the National Museum in Washington. The collection which was begun with the inception of the Philadelphia Mint in 1792, is believed to be one of the finest in the world." Another editorial on the same subject appeared in the *Ledger* on April 1.¹⁶²

Various local organizations, and through them congressmen from the area, were mobilized in an intensive but futile action to reverse the Treasury Department's decision, which was enunciated in a press release:

Tuesday, April 3, 1923

The Secretary of the Treasury announces that he has approved the recommendations of the Director of the Mint for the transfer of the collection of coins, tokens and medals in the Mint at Philadelphia to the National Museum at Washington. This is a national collection, and therefore most appropriate for exhibition in the National Museum, where it will be open to a larger public than at the Mint. All of the Mints, moreover, are now closed permanently to visitors, and if kept at the Philadelphia Mint the collection would have been inaccessible to the public.

This press release could hardly calm the local resentment and the pressure groups. On a national level, however, the American Numismatic Association immediately supported the transfer. In an editorial comment which appeared in the May 1923 issue of *The Numismatist*,¹⁶³ this position was made very clear:

Taking a broad view of the matter, the National Museum in Washington is the logical place for the coin collection. It has been termed the Mint collection, though, strictly speaking, it is the national collection. The National Museum already has a collection of medals, and the merging of the two collections will be advantageous.

The construction of the Mint Cabinet is such that it would be impossible to enlarge the space for the collection without remodeling the entire rotunda. This fact would prevent the material growth of the collection. . . . In the National Museum more space will probably be available, and perhaps more money for the purchase of additional specimens can be obtained.

Washington is the home of our other national collections. . . . The Capital City is a Mecca for sightseers and visitors, and the other collections will help to attract a larger number of visitors than a collection of coins alone could command.

There is one phase of the matter that is worthy of reflection, but which may not have received consideration by the Treasury officials in reaching their decision. The late

¹⁶² See, *The Numismatist* (1923), vol. 36, pp. 198f.

¹⁶³ Vol. 36, pp. 202f.

Dr. Compurette . . . is said to have been greatly concerned . . . about the apparent deterioration of the condition of the coins in the collection. The cause of this . . . was believed to be due to an atmospheric condition. . . . on The Mall in Washington, all such conditions will be removed.

The editorial concludes that the closing of the mints to visitors "is to be regretted more than the transfer of the collection from one city to another."

Concerned about the protests from Philadelphia, which multiplied during the month of April, Belote tried to obtain the active support of the national numismatic organizations.

He visited New York where he had a series of meetings on May 7 and 8 with Edward T. Newell, President of the American Numismatic Society, Moritz Wormser, President of the American Numismatic Association, and Howland Wood, Curator of the American Numismatic Society's collections. He obtained assurances that efforts would be made to have resolutions passed by the executive bodies of the two societies for presentation to the Secretary of the Treasury recommending the proposed transfer without delay.

As a result of these conferences, the Council of the American Numismatic Society passed a resolution favoring the transfer of the Mint collection to the Smithsonian, and on May 15 a letter to that effect was sent to the Secretary of the Treasury.¹⁶⁴ Howland Wood reported to Belote that: "Our Council passed a Resolution to write to Secretary Mellon favoring the transfer of the Mint collection to Washington, and a letter was sent to that effect on Saturday last. Also, the N.Y. Numismatic Club on Friday evening passed a similar Resolution. It looks now fairly favorable for the National Museum's getting it."

Similar action was taken by the New York Numismatic Club upon motion brought by Moritz Wormser at its May meeting. After obtaining the unanimous support of the board of governors of the American Numismatic Association as well, Wormser wrote on May 14 to Andrew Mellon:

Our Association has noted, with great interest, newspaper reports stating that the Coin Collection, heretofore on exhibition to the public and in charge of your Department at the Philadelphia Mint, is about to be transferred to the custody of the National Museum in Washington.

Needless to say, our Association is vitally interested in this collection, and its ultimate disposition, and we believe that if transferred to the National Museum, the Collection will serve a far greater usefulness than at the Philadelphia Mint. We are convinced that at the National Museum in Washington, it would be used to the best advantage for scientific and educational purposes, co-ordinated with the splendid Collections in other branches of art and science which are there displayed, that it could form the nucleus of a large national collection, properly housed, displayed, accessible at all times to a wider public from all parts of our Country, indexed and ultimately increased by proper appropriation to a size in keeping with its importance and with collections owned by other Governments less wealthy and powerful than ours.

Our Association, through the proper action of our Board of Governors, begs to go on record as heartily in favor of the proposed transfer of the Collection to the National Museum and we hope and earnestly urge that your Department will effect the transfer of the Collection to the National Museum, as indicated in these newspaper reports.

In short sequence, Secretary Walcott informed Mellon on May 16 that "the National Museum has entirely perfected its plans for the acceptance and appropriate installation of the numismatic collection from the United States Mint" and asked whether the Secretary of the Treasury could advise him "of the exact time when the transfer . . . will be completed."¹⁶⁵ Actually, all arrangements for the transportation of the collection were completed without further delay, and on May 28, Ravenel was informed that:

At the request of the Director of the Mint, we are sending to you today 23 cases containing the numismatic collection of this Mint.

I am enclosing herewith receipts prepared in triplicate which I would thank you to sign, returning to me the original and duplicate copies.

There are some changes in the numbers as found by your representative due to miscount in a few instances and additional coins that he did not see, discovered by us when all cases were emptied. As noted in the receipt, we have returned to Joseph K. Davidson's Sons medals loaned by them to the Mint, demand for which was made by them.

Respectfully
M. H. Chaffin
Superintendent,
Treasury Department

¹⁶⁴ H. Wood's communication to T. T. Belote of May 15. Letter in United States National Museum file No. 70 139. This file has been recently consolidated to contain all pertinent information on the Mint collection transfer.

¹⁶⁵ Carbon copy in USNM file No. 70 139.

The shipment went forward by registered mail, insured and accompanied by Secret Service men. It arrived at the Smithsonian the next morning. It was formally “accessioned” as a transfer on June 13 under number 70 139. Below is a copy of the detailed receipt signed by W. de C. Ravenel.

Received from Freas Styer, Superintendent of United States Mint, Philadelphia, Pa., United States and foreign coins and medals enumerated hereunder by cases, sections, countries and numbers as determined by count made by representatives of the Mint and the National Museum, at the Mint at Philadelphia, Pa., with exception of medals returned to Joseph K. Davidson’s Sons owners of certain medals loaned to the Mint and additional coins stored in cases not noted at the time the count was made, as well as some few changes in number of coins contained in certain sections ascertained on recount before packing.

<i>Box</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Kinds</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Taken out</i>
No. 1	Case 24 Upper	U.S. Tokens & Patterns	291	
		California Gold	73	
		Colonies	103	
		United States Coins	136	
	Case 25 Upper	“ “ “	395	
		“ “ “	255	
	Case 26 Lower	“ “ “	230	
		U.S. Commemorative Coins	35	
	No. 2 Case 26 Upper		U.S. Coins	342
	No. 3 Box 1 in Office		Coins	251
	2 “ “	Civil War Tokens	470	
	Small Cabinet	Counterfeits	30	
	“ “	Medals	189	11*
	“ “	Tokens	722	
	Curator’s Desk	Gold & Silver coins	24	
No. 4	Case 4 Upper	Great Britain	195	
		“ “	167	
	Case 5 Upper	France	127	
		“	126	
	Case 6 Upper	Italy	154	
		“	128	
	Case 7 Upper	Portugal	88	
		Spain	140	
	Case 10 Upper	Germany	124	
		“	49	
No. 5	Case 8 Upper	“	135	
		“	149	
	Case 9 Upper	“	128	
		“	109	
	Case 11 Upper	“	178	
		Austria Hungary	174	
	Case 12 Upper	Denmark	187	
		Sweden	107	
		Plate Money	4	
	Case 13 Upper	Netherlands	147	
		Belgium	87	

<i>Box</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Kinds</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Taken out</i>
	Case 14 Upper	Switzerland	142	
	Lower	Minor States of So. Europe	85	
	Case 15 Upper	Poland	129	
	Lower	Russia	168	
No. 7	Case 16 Upper	Africa	95	
	Lower	"	68	
	Case 17 Upper	Canada	104	
	Case 22 Upper	South America	369	
	Lower	" "	138	
	Case 23 Upper	" "	261	
	Case 21 Upper	Mexico	287	
	Lower	Central America	248	
No. 8	Case 18 Upper	Turkish & Persian	273	
	Lower	India, Ceylon & Siam	195	
	Case 19 Upper	China	474	
	Lower	"	206	
		String	1	
	Case 20 Upper	Japan	119	
	Lower	Philippine, etc.	115	
	Case 23 Lower	South America	217	
No. 9	Case 1 Upper	Greek	265	
	Lower	"	210	
	Case 2 Upper	Roman Rep.	414	
	Lower	" Imp.	244	
	Case 3 Upper	" "	301	
	Lower	" Byzantine	160	
No. 10	Case 37 Upper	Medals	20	
	Lower	"	32	
	Case 38 Upper	"	28	
	Lower	"	57	
	Case 39 Upper	"	16	
	Lower	"	23	
	Case 40 Upper	"	61	
	Lower	"	38	
	Case 27 Lower	Italian	12	
No. 11	Case 33 Lower	Medals	8	
	Case 34 Upper	"	35	
	Lower	"	16	
	Case 35 Upper	"	10	
	Lower	"	19	
	Case 36 Upper	"	22	
	Lower	"	26	
No. 12	Case 32 Upper	"	20	
	Lower	"	12	
	Case 33 Upper	"	35	

<i>Box</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Kinds</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Taken out</i>
	Case 30 Upper	"	29	
	Lower	"	13	
	Case 31 Upper	"	34	
	Lower	"	7	
No. 13	Case 28 Upper	"	104	
	Lower	"	13	
	Case 29 Upper	"	57	
	Lower	"	19	
	Wall Frame #1	Benjamin Franklin, etc.	4	
No. 14	Wall Frame #2	Decorations	22	1*
	" " #3	French Decorations	12	
	" " #4	U.S. Decorations	37	
No. 15	Small Cabinet	Medals	321	11*
No. 16	Small Cabinet	Medals	406	
No. 17	Large Cabinet A	Medals	346	
	" " B	"	318	
	" " "	"	437	
	" " 1st ½	Target medals	14	
		Decorations	4	
		Medals	5	
		Oak Leaves	2	
		Ribbons	8	
No. 18	Large Cabinet	Medals	146	
	1 Frame	Jap. Gold & silver coins	37	
No. 19	Large Cabinet 2d ½ A	Medals	765	
	" " " "	"	287	
	" " " " B	"	171	
No. 20	Large Cabinet 2d ½ B	Medals	1026	
	" " " " "	"	365	
No. 21	Large Cabinet 3d ½ B	Medals	48	
	" " " " "	War Money		
	" " " " "	Medals	20	
	" " " " "	Decorations	14	
	Tray	Notes of Defunct Banks and Con- federate States.		
No. 22	Large Cabinet 2d ½ A	War Badges	319	
	Tray 70	Civil War Tokens	798	
		Surplus Coins & Medals	72	
No. 23	Wall Frame #1	Ben Franklin, etc.	3	
		plaques, miscellaneous	14	
	Case 27 Upper	Friends of the Medallion		32*
	Case 17 Lower	Dies (Held at the Mint)		7*

*Taken out to return to Joseph K. Davidson's Sons by whom they were loaned.

The total number of specimens in the United States Mint collection transferred to the Museum was 18,324. The unpacking of the collection started on November 26, 1923, and the first case opened contained, according to Mr. Belote's report on file, United States gold and silver coins of the late 19th century. The unpacking and checking of all 23 cases

was finished on January 21, 1924.

In addition to the numismatic material, the Mint transferred all numismatic books which were selected by Mr. Belote from the specialized library at the Philadelphia Mint on October 8, 1924. A total of 814 publications were transferred to the Museum in December 1924.

APPENDIX IX

The Paul A. Straub Collection

The most important addition to the national numismatic collections came during the period of 1923 to 1952 from Paul A. Straub of New York (fig. 70). On May 13, 1949, Mr. Straub, accompanied by his friend, Henry Grunthal, delivered to Stuart Mosher, associate curator of the Division of Numismatics, and Charles Carey, acting head curator of the Department of History, his magnificent collection consisting of 1,793 gold and 3,855 silver coins.

Paul A. Straub was born on March 19, 1865, in the city of New York. He was associated with several china and glass importing firms. From 1895 to 1915 he resided in Dresden, Saxony, as European representative of one firm. Returned home, he established in New York in 1915 the firm of Paul A. Straub & Company, which became one of the leading importers of china and glassware.

When asked how he became a coin collector, he told the following story:¹⁶⁶

I became interested in coins in 1930 while in Dresden on a business trip with some friends.

Coming from a display of relics of the Reformation, shown in connection with the celebration of the Fourth Centennial of the Augsburg Confession, we passed the windows of a coin dealer who displayed a couple of 10-ducat pieces of 1630 commemorating the First Centennial.

We stepped in to see whether he had any United States gold dollars. He did, and my friends bought a few at 7 marks, or \$1.75 each. On our way out, the dealer tried to sell me the 10-ducat pieces. Quite surprised at his proposition, I told him that I did not want them, and knew no one who might care to have them. Then I left, but the ducats had made an impression on me, for after lunch I confessed to my friends that I would like to go back to the coin shop. We went—and I left with the 10-ducat pieces in my pocket. I was a coin collector and have been one ever since.

His collection increased rapidly. As early as June 12, 1939, Moritz Wormser, who had shown so much

interest in the transfer of the United States Mint collection to Washington, wrote to Theodore T. Belote, curator of the Division of History, mentioning Mr. Straub's desire to find a permanent home for his collection at the Smithsonian. Wormser wrote:

This time I think I have for you a communication of great interest to yourself and to the Smithsonian.

A very good friend of mine has discussed with me the thought that he might wish to bequeath his coin collection to the Smithsonian. This gentleman is a very fine collector and owns a really magnificent collection especially strong in the foreign field. I have had the privilege of seeing some of his collection, during a five hour visit, when I could see only about half of what he had and he has a wonderful series, especially Germans and gold coins. What I have seen is really too vast to mention in detail; but just to mention one item, he has a complete set of the Guinea series, from the ½ Guinea to the 5 Guinea pieces of every British Ruler, from Charles II to Queen Victoria, excepting of course the excessively rare George III. That was just one of the items that hits you in the eye when looking over the collection. While I made no detail appraisal of the collection, I should think it represents a money value of about \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00.

As usual there is of course one string tied to his ideas of bequest: He has been down to the Smithsonian and he does not like the way the collection there is displayed; and he wants some assurance and understanding that his collection would be displayed to better advantage, in some special arrangement of tiers, and perhaps behind shatter proof glass.

As I had read that the Government was going in for so much W.P.A. work, I think that the building and installation of such display facilities should be readily undertaken by the Government.

At the present moment the gentleman is leaving on an extended vacation and will not be back until early in August.

However, I wanted to write you about this while my talk with the collector is fresh in my mind, and you might write to me at your leisure your reaction to this idea, and give some thought how it could be worked out with your Museum.

¹⁶⁶ See *The Smithsonian Torch* (December 1956), p. 9., about Straub's visit to the museum in November 1956.

The gentleman is a well established business man, with no immediate heirs, so that I am convinced that his ideas are serious and not just "pipe dreams."

The acquisition of this collection by the Smithsonian, would I believe, give you a really outstanding coin collection.

Let me hear from you at your convenience.

Of course when my friend gets back from his trip and when you get to New York after that time, I shall of course be glad to introduce you to him.¹⁶⁷

About July 20, 1939, Belote visited with Wormser, who arranged for a meeting with Paul Straub in March 1940. The delay was occasioned, in part, by Straub's extended trip to Europe. Following the meeting, Straub wrote on March 28, 1940, to Dr. Charles G. Abbot, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution:

I have been collecting coins for a number of years, and have somewhere between five and six thousand pieces at present, and of these about 1200 pieces are of gold.

It is a general collection of types, and covers the Americas and Europe from about 1500. Over ninety-five percent of the pieces are extremely fine or better.

I would like to give this collection to the Institute [sic] if it can arrange to show it, as I think it should be shown, and if the necessary protection can be given it,—safety glass, etc.

As to the collection itself, I would refer you to Mr. M. Wormser, 95 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y., whom you may know and who has seen it. Would gladly show it to the Curator of this division of your museum any time he is in New York.

If my offer appeals to you, I would be glad to hear from you and remain,

Yours truly,
Paul A. Straub

PAS:S

Mr. Graf: See also letter of March 29, attached herewith.

In a supporting memorandum addressed to Dr. Alexander Wetmore, the Smithsonian's Assistant Secretary, Belote pointed out that Straub was

intensely interested in art and history [in fact, he had a large library of Lincolniana] and this interest has expressed itself in the form of coin collecting. He has spared no expense to acquire a collection of the very finest specimens of exceptional art and historic interest and he now feels that he might assure the perpetuation of the collection by presenting it to some museum of the first rank in the United States where it might be permanently shown for the benefit of the American public. . . . At first he thought of offering the collection to the American Numismatic Society in New York but finally concluded it would have a wider sphere of use-

fulness if accepted by the U.S. National Museum. If the Museum should accept the collection, Mr. Straub will continue to add to the collection annually as a gift to the Smithsonian a large number of new specimens of the same fine character as those which it already contains.¹⁶⁸

The Secretary replied to Straub on April 17, 1940:

Dear Mr. Straub:

We appreciate indeed your recent letter, in which you indicate that you wish to present your collection of coins to the Smithsonian Institution as an addition to our national collections in this important field. Your material is well-known to those working in numismatics, as containing only the finest type of specimens.

You are no doubt familiar with our present important collection, to which your series would make a highly valuable addition. We handle this material under suitable conditions as regards display, and safeguard those parts of the collection that are not on public exhibition, but are used for study by experts, in a manner that insures their careful preservation. For some of the important gold coins on display, we use a special safety glass that protects against vandalism, a matter of definite importance now when the high price of gold is considered.

With gifts such as the one you contemplate, it is our policy in all branches of the Museum to catalog the material given by the donor and to keep his name on the labels with each individual specimen. We arrange our collection according to some definite scheme of classification, interpolating new pieces that come to us from material such as yours in the proper place, with the name of the donor. The whole thus makes a unified display with each piece properly labelled. We do not find it practicable to display individual collections as a unit, since to do so detracts from the value of the collections as a whole, since it makes it necessary for those interested to go to several places to see our series covering a single subject. I am sure you will appreciate the desirability of having one systematic series so that the materials can be directly compared. I shall appreciate hearing from you further regarding your desires in the presentation of your collection.

With appreciation of your attention, I am,

Very truly yours,
Charles G. Abbot
Secretary.

Abbot wrote at the same time to Wormser to express his appreciation of "your long continued and valuable assistance." Wormser's reply of April 26, 1940, was characteristic of his unassuming attitude:

I was very glad indeed to receive your kind letter of the 25th and to hear from you that the matter of the Straub

¹⁶⁷ Letter in the USNM Archives, Accession 161590.

¹⁶⁸ USNM Archives, Acc. 161590.

Collection is of interest to you, and is making some progress.

Really I have done very little in this matter; for after all the prime factor in it is Mr. Straub's public spirit and I do hope that the ultimate bequest of the collection to the Smithsonian Institution will be accomplished.

I can assure you that it is a wonderful and representative collection of foreign gold and silver coins primarily, with many rarities, and material in first-class condition, and its ultimate acquisition by the Smithsonian would greatly strengthen its numismatic section.

Of course I shall be most interested in the progress of this proposition and hope that Mr. Straub will soon make a trip to Washington for the discussion of further details.

"I am rooting hard for it."¹⁶⁹

This was Wormser's last letter to the Smithsonian for on May 22, 1940, this restless worker and dedicated friend of the Smithsonian's numismatic collections died unexpectedly.

Discussions concerning the donation continued. In July, Straub visited the Smithsonian and in October he invited Belote to examine his collection. Belote spent November 14 and 15 in New York and Summit, New Jersey, with Straub, and in a detailed memorandum he described the collection as well as the conditions attached to the donation.

On January 7, 1942, Assistant Secretary Wetmore wrote to Straub going into details connected with exhibiting, labeling, credit lines, and difficulties that would arise if blue velvet lining should be used as considered desirable by Straub.

In his reply of January 12, 1942, Straub set forth "three fundamental conditions" for the gift:

Thanks for yours of the 7th. I have carefully noted its contents and am pleased to know that my collection has had your consideration.

Replying I would say that there are only three fundamental conditions attached to my giving the collection to the Museum, viz.:

1. That the coins be carefully protected from injury and theft.

2. That they are appropriately and advantageously shown.

3. That they are made a permanent exhibit. All other matters are details that can be adjusted and arranged without trouble.

It matters little whether the cases are lined with blue velvet, if the pieces are shown to advantage in another way. I only suggested blue velvet because both silver and gold show up well on it.

Also it would be well to show your pieces with mine, for by so doing the object to my making the gift is attained.

That is, to provide the nucleus for a better and larger collection,—one that will place at the disposal of the student and the artist specimens of the best coinage of other countries. Also to develop in our people a desire and demand for better designed monies than we have had in recent years. See our Commemorative half dollars and our Jefferson five cent nickel.

If you think it best to show silver and gold coins together I will agree to it, although I am of the opinion that it would be much better to separate them. Try and visualize a row of gold ducats following a number of large, coarse, double talers and talers. I am sure the small gold pieces would be overlooked. Gold coins are so much smaller and of so much finer detail that it seems to me they should be shown by themselves so as to bring out the beauty of detail.

If it is known that gold and silver are shown separately, I don't think any interested person would object to walking across an aisle to see both. I think the collection is so arranged in Berlin.

I don't consider a flat case the ideal way to show coins, and I only remember seeing coins so displayed in Paris at the National Library, and of course to the disadvantage of the pieces displayed.

The only way to show coins, to my way of thinking, is in upright cases, the way *you* show the American and other coins in the cases against the wall. However, they should be without the cases in front of them so that a person can get up close to the case and examine the pieces. What can one see of the details of a gold dollar or a two and a half dollar gold piece at a distances of say one to two feet, or when standing on one's toes and straining to see the piece at all.

I attach a sketch of my idea of an upright show case as I have seen them in many Museums for your consideration. The cases must be fitted with *safety glass* to prevent the glass being smashed or cut with a diamond and valuable pieces taken. There are gold pieces that cost up to \$750., and silver pieces worth up to \$500. and more in my collection, and they must be protected against accident or theft.

Attaching my name to the pieces means little to me, for like Andy Mellon I seek no notoriety in making the gift. However, that detail I would leave to you.

I hope that I have made my position clear, and I would be glad to hear from you further after you have considered it.

Of course, I'll be glad to come down to Washington to arrange details if we get together on the three main points. I enjoyed Mr. Belote's visit and it will give me pleasure to meet you.

On February 11, 1942, Dr. Wetmore wrote Straub accepting the collection under the stipulations offered by Straub:

Your kind letter of January 12 came to me in due time and I greatly appreciate your statements in it regarding your coin collection. That I have not replied to you earlier has been due to the present war situation which has made it

¹⁶⁹ USNM Archives, Acc. 161590.

a little difficult for me to see my way with regard to our collections. These matters are now clarified so that I know better where we stand.

We should like to accept your collection under the stipulations offered at the beginning of your letter and can assure you that your wishes as indicated there will be met.

At the present time I do not feel that it is proper to make extensive exhibitions of valuable gold coins for a number of reasons. The principal one among these is the possibility that we may have some sporadic bombing from enemy sources here along the Eastern seaboard. I am not pessimistic concerning the matter but is it definitely prudent to have this in mind and to make the proper dispositions in case such circumstances should arise. I would consider it very foolish not to make arrangements for such a possibility.

There is a further matter that at the present time so far as I can see now it will be impossible to get the proper grade of *shatterproof glass for cases*. We have some of our coin cases now equipped with this glass made for us by the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company from a special grade called water white which is so clear and so well prepared that there is no hint of coloring and consequently no indication of the lamination of the glass. This grade of glass is not available at the present time. The ordinary glass such as is used in our automobiles and in the armored trucks that transport valuables around our cities will not serve since after a period of a year or two it becomes yellow and more or less opaque.

We expect to place an important series of specimens from our coin collection in a location outside Washington where they will be properly guarded and safe from any bombings that may come to us here near the coast. I realize that you wish to make a permanent arrangement about your collection. May I suggest to you, therefore, the possibility that you may wish to make the transfer to us at the present time. If this is done we would accept the collection with the understanding that the bulk of it would be put into safe storage for exhibition at the close of the war. We would then arrange the storage of the material with the other specimens that we expect to remove from our collections here.

If this does not meet with your approval perhaps you would be willing to consider the actual legal transfer of the collection to us at this time with the understanding that it would remain in your possession during your life.

I shall greatly appreciate hearing from you in regard to these suggestions. I may add for your own information, and not for publication, that in common with other large museums we have removed some of our valuable specimens already and that other material is being packed. We expect to maintain our public exhibitions in their present extent and will merely change somewhat the type of things that we show. It is our definite feeling that our museums and art galleries have a highly important function in times like these in the mental relief they give to the individual from the stresses brought about by the matters of the day. At the beginning of the war in England the museums were

closed but were opened almost immediately on public demand, and have been kept open often under the most trying circumstances since.

Straub, in turn, formally confirmed his gift with a letter dated February 26, 1942. At the same time he announced the preparation of an inventory and raised some questions concerning duplication of coins already represented in the national collections. Wetmore replied on March 9, and on the 29th Straub reported to Belote that he was making progress with the preparation of the inventory as well as with the acquisition of new pieces. Among others, he had acquired a 50-zecchini piece struck in the name of the Doge Paolo Renier of Venice (1779–1789) and had increased the number of gold coins to 1,450 and the number of multiple talers to 51 pieces.

After this the exchange of correspondence stopped until 1945, when, in reply to a letter of March 27 from Secretary Wetmore, Straub promised on April 3 that he would have the collection ready "any time after May 1st." He mentioned at the same time that the collection of gold coins had grown in numbers and importance. "There are now at least 1,750 gold pieces ranging from $\frac{1}{32}$ to 50 ducats."

Months went by and, in November, Straub apologized for the delay. He had discovered inconsistencies between his listings and the collection which he was attempting to clear up.

The delay in delivering the collection to the museum in the beginning was caused in part by World War II. The main reason, however, was Straub's ambition to build up first a collection which "Uncle Sam could be proud of." These were, in fact, the words used by himself on more than one occasion.

After its arrival in 1949, delays in displaying the collection followed. About half of the gold coins were installed in six upright cases by May 1950.¹⁷⁰ Problems in obtaining the special shatterproof glass delayed the installation of the other gold coins until May 1953.¹⁷¹ Since that time the Smithsonian has had the largest display of gold coins on view anywhere in the world.

Straub continued to take an active interest in the exhibit, and in spite of advanced age, visited Washington from time to time, always bringing along a few coins to be added to the collection.

He was appointed an Honorary Fellow of the Smithsonian in 1955. He died on December 9, 1958, at the age of 93 years.

¹⁷⁰ Letter from Stuart Mosher to Paul A. Straub, May 19, 1950.

¹⁷¹ Stuart Mosher to Paul A. Straub, May 7, 1953.

A last gift of seven gold coins which he had not been able to present himself reached the Museum a few days before his death, a moving symbol of Paul A. Straub's purposeful dedication.

In addition to the main donation in 1949 of 1,793 gold and 3,855 silver pieces, Straub over the years gave 67 other gold coins and 31 silver pieces. The entire donation amounted to 1,860 gold and 3,886 silver coins, or 5,746 pieces in all.

It would require a special publication to do justice to the overall significance of the collection. There are 27 10-ducat pieces represented in this collection, and even heavier coins including a 25-ducat piece of Transylvania struck in 1681 in the name of M. Apafi (fig. 72), a 25-zecchini piece struck in the name of the Doge of Venice Giovanni II Corner (1709–1722), and a 50-zecchini coin of Paolo Renier of

Venice (1779–1789) (fig. 71). The great rarities contained in this collection are many; one example is the Russian 1882 gold 3-ruble piece of Alexander III, of which only 6 pieces were struck (fig. 73). Not much the lesser in importance is the collection of silver coins. There are, for instance, 50 multiple talers of the Brunswick duchies. Among them, five are 10-taler pieces. No references in other collections could be found, for instance, for the medallic piece dated 1677 (fig. 74) struck in the name of Johann Friedrich of New Lüneburg.¹⁷²

¹⁷² Mentioned without other references by JOHN S. DAVENPORT, *Oversize Multiple Talers of the Brunswick Duchies and Saxe-Lauenburg* (1956), p. 60, no. 211. See also R. MULTHAUF, "Mine Pumping in Agricola's Time," *USNM Bulletin* 218. *Contributions from the Museum of History and Technology*, Washington, 1959, p. 115, fig. 1.

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